

in first class, the other in coach. Naturally, Jerry puts dibs on first class, enjoying comfy slippers, Tuscan wines and Tia, a gazelle of a model. Meanwhile, Elaine's wedged next to a jerk and browbeaten by flight attendants. On the ground, George and Kramer experience myriad mishaps trying to pick Jerry and Elaine up, including George's tangling with a felon and Kramer's sneaking onto a plane to collect a debt from an old roommate. In the end, George is taken for a ride. **GUEST STARS:** Jennifer Campbell (Tia), Scott Burkholder (Felon) **WISH YOU WERE HERE!** Jerry and Elaine ask the skycap for tipping tips for three bags. He says \$15. They give \$10. He puts through two bags and sends the third (Elaine's, of course) to Honolulu. **SEIN POSTS:** The scary dude who stinks up the lavatory before Elaine gets in is *Seinfeld* writer Larry Charles. **RATING:** ★★★★★ The two-class plane society is a sublimely satisfying target, and the humor soars right off the map.

THE PICK

E P I S O D E 5 1

PREMIERED: 12/16/92 **WRITERS:** David, Marc Jaffe **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Like all 4-year-olds, this show exhibits a curiosity about bodily functions. Namely, whether digital-nasal penetration is wrong and "nippular" exposure on your Christmas card is ever right. George, who previously likened mounting the stairs to Susan's apartment to walking to his execution, now whines ceaselessly about losing her. When she takes him back, they're shown climbing the stairs in what turns out to be the beginning of the long walk to her death scene. Kramer discovers his fragrance, the Beach, has been stolen by Calvin Klein, who persuades Kramer to become an underwear model. "His buttocks are sublime!" gasps C.K. **GUEST STARS:** Campbell (Tia), Swedberg (Susan), Wayne Knight (Newman), Nicholas Hormann (Calvin Klein) **LET'S GET PHYSICAL:** Physical comedy gems: Kramer's underpants scene, Jerry's attempt to keep Tia and Kramer separated, Elaine settling George's harangue over not getting a Christmas card by rubbing his head to her chest. **RATING:** ★★★★★ On any other show, this would all be in bad taste.

THE MOVIE

E P I S O D E 5 2

PREMIERED: 1/06/93 **WRITERS:** Steve Skrovan, Bill Masters, Jon Hayman **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** It's a bad sign when Jerry's stand-up act feels as interminable as the movie "Punchline." Or

"Rochelle, Rochelle," for that matter, "a young girl's strange erotic journey from Milan to Minsk," which is where the four find each other after their own strange journey through this episode. The confusion finally ends when Elaine, tired of the movie's witless dialogue, loudly mutters, "Gimme a break." You may have the very same thought. **GUEST STAR:** Barry Diamond (Buckles, a bad comic) **BUT WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT ME?** Kramer on Jerry: "A big head and flared nostrils." George on Kramer: "A horse face, big teeth, and a pointed nose." George on Elaine: "Kind of short, big wall of hair, face like a frying pan."



Episode 51 finds Jerry trying to nip Elaine's stress over nipple exposure: "Everybody's got 'em!"

Elaine on Kramer: "A tall, lanky doofus with a bird face and hair like the bride of Frankenstein." **RATING:** ★ Don't bother saving a seat for this one.

THE VISA

E P I S O D E 5 3

PREMIERED: 01/27/93 **WRITER:** Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** George asks out immigration lawyer Cheryl, who laughs at all his jokes. Worried that she'll like Jerry's "show" better than his, he tells Jerry not to be funny so that she doesn't "walk out on George's show." But Jerry gets guffaws from Cheryl, who turns out to be delivery boy Ping's cousin. She provides a temporary reprieve from his lawsuit against Elaine, which Ping pongs back into play when Cheryl finds out George, Jerry and Elaine are big phonies. This lands luckless Babu back in Pakistan, swearing vengeance on "very, very bad" Jerry, who didn't pass along Babu's visa renewal application. **GUEST STARS:** Brian George (Babu Bhatt), Maggie Han (Cheryl), Wu (Ping) **OUT OF LEFT FIELD:**

Kramer's hilarious riff on how he "plunked" Joe Pepitone for crowding the plate, then punched Mickey Mantle at a fantasy baseball camp. **RATING:** ★★★★★ You are watching a good episode, a very, very good episode.

THE SHOES

E P I S O D E 5 4

PREMIERED: 02/04/93 **WRITERS:** David, Jerry Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** When George's therapist (now there's a potential gold mine) tells him she doesn't think the script for the NBC pilot he's writing with Jerry is funny, the show almost levitates: "How's this for criticism?" he says, fuming. "You stink!" But then the story of George sabotaging the pilot by staring

at the cleavage of Russell Dalrymple's daughter brings it back down with a thud. The bright spot is Jerry's comparison of cleavage to the sun: "You don't stare at it, it's too risky. You get a sense of it and look away." Elaine eventually saves the day—and the pilot—by offering fancy footwear to Jerry's girlfriend, Gail, and a reciprocal "cleavage peek" to Dalrymple. **GUEST STARS:** Balaban (Dalrymple), Anita Barone (Gail) **LOOK, UP ON THE FRIGIDAIRE!** It's Superman, as Jerry's man of steel magnet joins the set for the first time. **RATING:** ★ Better to just get a sense of this one and look away.

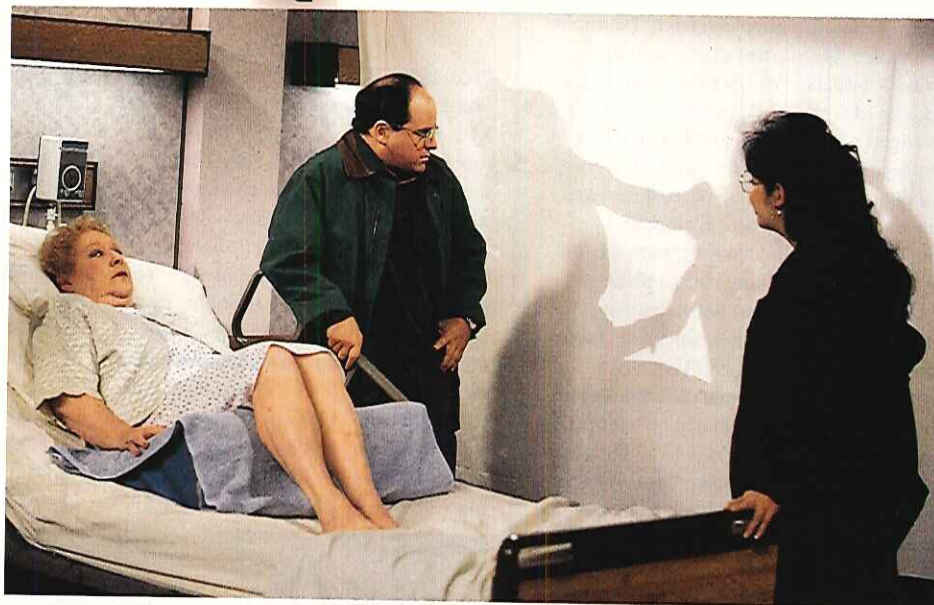
THE OUTING

E P I S O D E 5 5

PREMIERED: 02/11/93 **WRITER:** Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Elaine tries to play a joke on a woman eavesdropping on her conversation with Jerry and George by pretending the guys are gay. The woman, Sharon, turns out to be a student reporter doing a story on the "single, thin and neat" Jerry. During a subsequent interview,

George and Jerry "bicker like an old married couple" and deal with the consequences in a P.C. world. "I've been outed," Jerry cries. "I wasn't even in!" Meanwhile, George tries to use the news to get rid of girlfriend Allison. When the story hits the *New York Post*, Estelle Costanza falls off a toilet in shock. Visiting her in the hospital, George finds himself moved by a guy-guy sponge bath in the next bed. Not that there's anything wrong with that. **GUEST STARS:** Paula Marshall (Sharon), Kari Coleman (Allison), Harris (Estelle) **WORDS YOU'LL NEVER HEAR THE REVEREND JERRY FALWELL SAY:** "Not that there's anything wrong with that," the now famous P.C. disclaimer, is uttered eight times.

RATING: ★★★★★ Not much wrong with this episode either.



It's no contest when, in episode 49, George is faced with either feeding his mother or watching sponge-worthy women.

THE OLD MAN

EPISODE 56

PREMIERED: 02/18/93 **WRITER:** Charles, Bruce Kirschbaum **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** After signing up for do-gooder work with old people, Elaine discovers that the elderly Mrs. Oliver has a goiter the shape of a football: "You'd think they'd mention, 'Oh, by the way, this woman almost has a second head.'" George signs up (his charge is Ben), and so does Jerry, whose old man Sid inquires, "Are you gonna kill me?" Well, almost. Kramer and Newman pilfer Sid's record collection, rip out his dentures in a scuffle and grind them up in the garbage disposal. Then they lose him altogether on the way to the dentist. Sid's most redeeming feature is a Senegalese housekeeper who speaks no English, which, along with a desire to "dip my bald head in oil and rub it all over your body," is one of George's new dating requirements. **GUEST STARS:** Bill Erwin (Sid), Robert Donley (Ben), Lanei Chapman (Housekeeper), Tobin Bell (Ron the record store clerk), Knight (Newman), Edie McClurg (voice of Mrs. Oliver) **COUNTERFEIT CULTURE:** Because this very New York show is filmed in Los Angeles, someone forgot that garbage disposals were—and still are—practically nonexistent in Manhattan. **RATING: ★★★★★** We get to see what George and Jerry will probably be like in 50 years, with the bonus of a goiter gal who greased Gandhi.

THE IMPLANT

EPISODE 57

PREMIERED: 02/25/93 **WRITER:** Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Are they real

or Mammorex? Jerry is smitten with a babe from his health club, but when Elaine informs him that "they're fake," he drops Sidra. George hasn't gotten to second base with the woman he's dating, but then Jerry and Kramer convince him that flying home with Betsy for a funeral is an opportunity to get some consolation-guy action (Kramer: "It's like 10 dates in one shot!"). Elaine revises her Silicone Sidra theory when she accidentally cops a feel in the sauna, prompting Jerry to ask Sidra out again. George stars at the funeral—until a brawl erupts over his double-dipping a chip. **GUEST STARS:** Teri Hatcher (Sidra), Megan Mullally (Betsy) **THE SEINTANIC VERSES:** Kramer swears he has seen Salman Rushdie at the gym. When the guy says he's a writer and his name is Sal Bass, that clinches it. "Bass" versus "Salman-Salmon": Sounds fishy! **CHEAP TRICKS:** George's half-price airfare scheme crashes when, unable to produce a death certificate, he tries to use a Polaroid of himself next to the coffin. **LET US SPOIL THE SUSPENSE FOR YOU:** Sidra: "By the way, they're real, and they're spectacular." **RATING: ★★★★★** The sex and death theme is top-heavy with jokes and terrific lines. Spectacular.

THE JUNIOR MINT

EPISODE 58

PREMIERED: 03/18/93 **WRITER:** Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry meets a woman in a grocery store's produce section (all those melons) but can't remember her name. She mentions it rhymes with a female body part. George's guesses: Celeste? Aretha? Mulva? Elaine

is obsessed with the male anatomy, specifically, formerly fat Roy's. The artist is in the hospital, and he has lost weight pining over Elaine. Kramer's interested in Roy's guts, too: He and Jerry watch his spleen operation, which is complicated when fight leads to flight and a Junior Mint lands in Roy's vital organs. **GUEST STARS:** Sherman Howard (Roy), Susan Walters (Mystery Woman) **CUTTING UP:** Seinfeld ad-libs a line about watching them "slice this fat bastard up" and nearly breaks out laughing, but he covers it with his coffee cup. **CHIVALRY ISN'T DEAD:** Jerry: "Once you've made out with a woman, you can't ask her her name." **RATING: ★★★★★** Pushes the envelope, but the envelope pushes back; ends limply when you realize the name-guessing business is based on a mispronunciation.

THE SMELLY CAR

EPISODE 59

PREMIERED: 04/15/93 **WRITERS:** David, Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** A valet-parking attendant with B.O. from hell infests Jerry's car with "The Beast." The aroma clings to Elaine's hair, making boyfriend Carl wretch. George has his own troubles: He fears he's a sexual stink bomb when he sees former flame Susan holding hands with a woman. But that ends after Susan's lover, Mona, a golf instructor, sees Kramer's swing with a broom. Unable to cure his car or sell it, Jerry tries to entice a thief. **GUEST STARS:** Swedberg (Susan), Nick Bakay (Carl), Viveka Davis (Mona) **PREGO!** Elaine's stylist claims the last-gasp treatment for hair stench is tomato sauce. Says Elaine:

"Sauce me." **ADAM SMITH COSTANZA:** Outraged by a \$2 rewinding charge, George heeds Kramer's advice that it'll be cheaper to keep the videotape "Rochele, Rochele" an extra day and rewind it himself. The tape is stolen. George's bill: \$98. **RATING:** ★★ Doesn't pass the smell test.

THE HANDICAP SPOT

EPISODE 60

PREMIERED: 05/13/93 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** An engagement party for "The Drake" and "The Drakette" requires a gift, prompting a trip to the mall in Frank Costanza's Mercury. Jerry, George, et al. park in a handicap spot (Kramer's idea) and, after buying a big-screen TV, find that a wheelchair-bound woman forced to use a regular spot has been injured. Mall turns to maul as an angry crowd awaits whoever stole the space. Jerry & Co. slink away; the crowd trashes the car instead. But the TV gets delivered just as the Drake announces the couple's breakup. Love springs eternal, though: A hospital romance blooms when Kramer visits the injured woman, Lola. Meanwhile, George

campaigns to retrieve the TV: "It's not hers, it's theirs. Once there's no theirs, it's not hers, it's ours." **GUEST STARS:** Harris (Estelle), John Randolph (Frank; his scenes were reshot for syndication with Jerry Stiller), Rick Overton (the Drake); Elizabeth Dennehy (the Drakette), Donna Evans (Lola) **LOOK FOR:** Kathy Kinney, later of *The Drew Carey Show*, as an angry bystander. **WHEELY FUNNY, JERRY:** He asks, "What is the handicap-parking situation at the Special Olympics?" **RATING:** ★★★ The "cripple joke," the cheapest form of comedy, is managed—nimbley.

THE PILOT

EPISODE 61
ONE HOUR

PREMIERED: 05/20/93 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** At last, it's pilot time for *Jerry*. Kramer auditions for his role under the name Martin Van Nostrand, but aborts mid-tryout because of a bathroom emergency. Elaine's on the job market, too: Incensed that the new coffee-shop

owner hires only women with large breasts, she applies for a job in order to get turned down and stir up some EEOC trouble. But NBC exec Dalrymple would tell you she's amply endowed: He's still bewitched by his glimpse in episode 54. George, too, suffers a distraction: He's sure he has cancer, God's punishment for his impending success. In the end, Dalrymple joins Greenpeace and his replacement, Rita, sinks *Jerry*. **GUEST STARS:** Jeremy Piven (*Jerry's* George), Larry Hankin (*Jerry's* Kramer), Elena Wohl (*Jerry's* Elaine) Balaban (Dalrymple), Anne Twomey (Rita) **ENCORE, ENCORE:** Several characters from shows past are seen watching *Jerry*, including the Drake and Drakette, "old man" Sid, Marla, Cheryl, Ping, the Bubble Boy and his parents, Calvin Klein, Sidra, Sal Bass, etc. **A LITTLE LONG FOR AN EPITAPH:** Told he's pouring on the cancer agony too thick, George says, "I live my whole life in shame! Why should I die with dignity?" **RATING:** ★★ Dud subplots, and we see only flashes of how inspired a *Jerry* variation on *Seinfeld* could be.

FEAR AND LOATHING IN NEW YORK

LARRY DAVID HELPED PUT THE FUN IN DYSFUNCTIONAL

My thoughts when the show began were, 'I hated myself and I didn't trust anyone,'" says Larry David, cocreator of *Seinfeld*. "Now that the show is ending, I believe that I have the same thoughts: 'I hate myself and I don't trust anyone.'"

Never has self-hatred become so beloved. As head writer, David deftly guided misanthropy to new depths and watched *Seinfeld's* ratings soar.

Although he left the series in 1996 to pursue writing and direct feature films (his first, "Sour Grapes," opened April 17), David has informally consulted on matters *Seinfeldian*. He returns for one last "pop-in" as cowriter of the series' final episode on May 14.

As the oft-told story goes, it was during a late-night trip to a New York grocery store in 1988 when David and fellow stand-up comic Jerry Seinfeld, looking for an idea to pitch to NBC, decided funny could come right from aisle 6. Nothing in life, in fact, was too trivial from which to draw comedic gold. Name an episode or character and David rattles off its origin: Justin Pitt? Based on a woman he once chauffeured in his New York salad days.

"The Stock Tip"? Just like Jerry, David once lost a small fortune on a pick. "The Contest"? Yes, he and a friend

actually staged such a game (he won, "hands down, or hands up," he says).

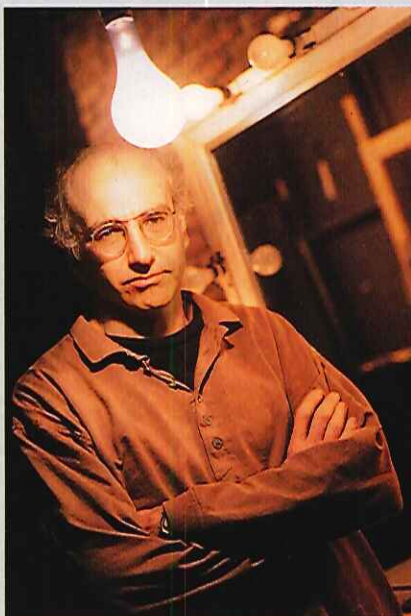
It's also no secret that David is the inspiration (or desperation) behind George. Call George an idiot and "I really take it personally, as if they were talking about me," he says.

But hasn't it all been an idiot's delight? David tasted success on ABC's *Fridays* and as a writer on *Saturday Night Live* before *Seinfeld* gave him fame and wealth poor George could only dream about. Since the show's inception, David has even gotten married and had two kids. And still this self-loathing guy hasn't changed?

"I really don't think so, unfortunately," he says. "I was hoping to change, believe me. It didn't work out."

For one brief moment, however, David does allow himself to indulge in the sort of nostalgia that *Seinfeld* so often

shuns. Coming back for the final episode has been like "visiting an old friend: Awkward at first, then it was like I never left," he says. "Eventually, they had to throw me out."



5

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Now that we got the joke, we couldn't get enough—and neither could the TV industry, which, in addition to the best-comedy Emmy, handed Emmys to Larry David (for writing "The Contest") and Michael Richards (as Best Supporting Actor) for last season. The show had arrived. Chosen to anchor NBC's all-important Thursday lineup, it would vault from 25th place in the ratings to third, trailing only the venerable *60 Minutes* and former time-slot rival *Home Improvement*.

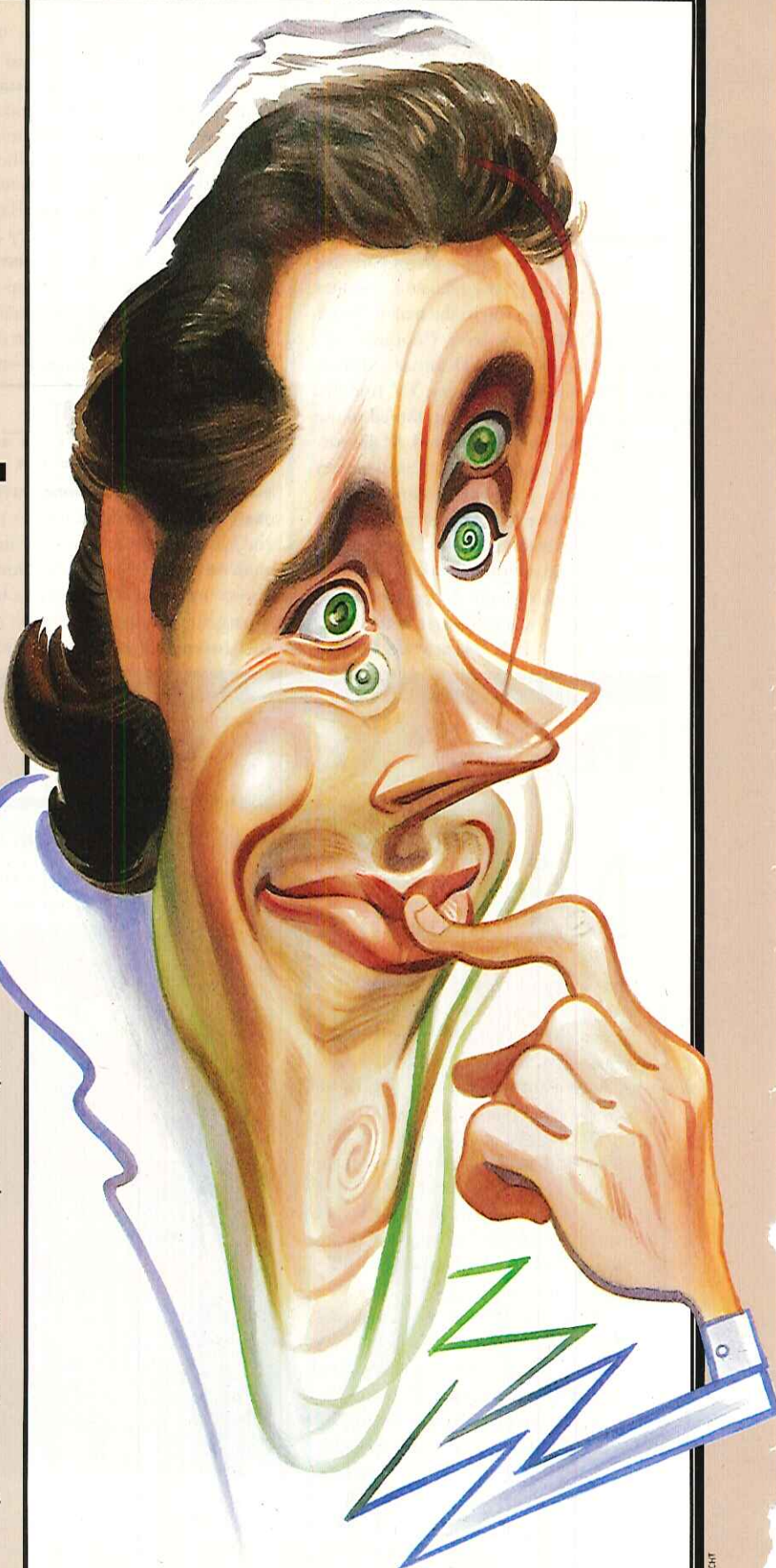
No contest (to borrow a metaphor) which of TV's top shows was the freshest. Still on a creative roll, Jerry wore a puffy shirt on the *Today* show, threw up for the first time since June 1980 and learned that Elaine had "faked 'em all" during their time together.

And so it dawned on a growing legion of fans that as *Seinfeld* navigated its way through pop culture, no sacred cow would go unslaughtered. Envelopes were pushed long before poor Susan would die licking them.

With a raging case of political incorrectness, the show made sport of the deaf, religion (notably Latvian Orthodox) and Native-American sensitivities (courtesy of a cigar store Indian), and it put bleeped curse words in the mouth of a little boy (years before *South Park*'s Cartman). We watched Elaine tangle with a woman in the ladies' room who "didn't have a square [of toilet paper] to spare." And we learned more about the secret male shame of "shrinkage" than we might have wished.

Meanwhile, George suffered through one of his most memorably miserable years, moving back with his hilariously dyspeptic parents, Frank and Estelle, even getting grounded when they discovered he'd had sex in their bed.

In the inspired season finale, Jerry helps George reverse his downward spiral: "If every instinct you have is wrong, then the opposite would have to be right." He changes his coffee-shop diet, he stops lying about his pathetic life, and the stage is set for a legendary career with the New York Yankees.



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gonna find another attractive,
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THE MANGO

E P I S O D E 6 2

PREMIERED: 09/16/93 **WRITERS:** Lawrence H. Levy, Buck Dancer **DIRECTOR:** Tom Cherones **STORY:** If sex be the food of love, then everyone spends 22 minutes on a diet. George's girlfriend, Karen, gives him "the tap" during sex. Elaine admits she "faked 'em all" with Jerry. Karen's orgasmic moans while eating risotto cause George to worry that she's faking it, so he can't perform. But after he bites a mango, his member moves. The earth doesn't when Jerry gets a second shot at Elaine. **GUEST STARS:** Lisa Edelstein (Karen), **MR. MANNERS:** "Tub is love." Translation: If you really like her, you'll scrub the bathtub before she comes over. **RATING:** ★★★★★ All the essential ingredients, while brilliantly lampooning erotic duplicity.

THE PUFFY SHIRT

E P I S O D E 6 3

PREMIERED: 09/23/93 **WRITER:** Larry David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** With only \$714 in the bank, George must move back home. He declines Jerry's offer of cash, since "borrowing money from a friend is like having sex: It completely changes the relationship." Out for dinner with his



Hat trick: George wears his cap like Elaine's cool mimbo in episode 73.

parents, George bumps into a hand-model agent who "discovers" his endowment, hands that Kramer calls "smooth, creamy, delicate yet masculine." Jerry and Elaine dine with Kramer and his new gal, low-talking Leslie, a clothing designer. After nodding at her inaudible murmurs, Jerry finds himself wearing her frilly pirate shirt creation during his appearance on *Today*. George ends his career when he

turns into a fried Captain Hook. **GUEST STARS:** Bryant Gumbel (as himself) Estelle Harris (Estelle), Wendel Meldrum (Leslie) **DADDY DEAREST:** Introduces Jerry Stiller, who replaces John Randolph as Frank Costanza, a retired importer of religious articles. **MOMMIES DEAREST:** We find out George's mom has never laughed and Jerry's mom has never touched a natural body of water. **AT LEAST HE DIDN'T GO BLIND:** George learns the tragic saga of Ray McKegney, the hand-model king who was "not master of his domain." Says George: "Don't worry, I won a contest." **RATING:** ★★★★★ Wildly imaginative, with a message about vanity.

THE GLASSES

E P I S O D E 6 4

PREMIERED: 09/30/93 **WRITERS:** Tom Gammill, Max Pross **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** George, who says his specs were stolen at the gym, enlists Jerry and Elaine to help choose new ones. Elaine gets bitten by a dog in the shop, and Jerry is distracted when George says he saw girlfriend Amy kissing Jerry's cousin Jeffrey outside. Left alone, George chooses huge Gloria Vanderbilt rims. When Elaine

asks her foreign-born doc if she needs a shot, he insists, "No shot, dog bite. Woof, woof. Not bang, bang." **GUEST STARS:** Anna Gunn (Amy), Len Lesser (Uncle Leo), Michael Saad (the Doctor) **DOG DAYS:** Elaine, convinced she has rabies, foams at the mouth. **BLIND MAN BLUFFED:** George swaps specs with a sightless man. **RATING:** ★★ An aimlessly nasty episode; even the dog gets whacked.

THE SNIFFING ACCOUNTANT

E P I S O D E 6 5

PREMIERED: 10/07/93

WRITERS: David, Jerry

Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry's accountant, Barry Profit, sniffs suspiciously, so the gang suspects he has a coke habit. "What kind of snow blower did you get us mixed up with?" cries Newman, who, with Kramer, has money tied up with Profit. The trio tries to entrap the accountant, ABSCAM-style. George talks his way into a bra-salesman job (he has "wanted to be around brassieres" since age 14) but

gets fired for "feeling up" his boss. **GUEST STARS:** John Kapelos (Barry Profit), Wayne Knight (Newman), Christa Miller (George's boss) **ARGUMENTS OVER NOTHING:** Jerry and Newman bicker about what days of the week have "feel." "Tuesday has no feel.... Friday has a feel." **STUPID HUMAN TRICKS:** Kramer smokes and drinks beer simultaneously, to hilarious effect. **RATING:** ★★ Doesn't have the seamlessness to achieve the whole cloth of greatness.

THE BRIS

E P I S O D E 6 6

PREMIERED: 10/14/93 **WRITER:** Larry Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry and Elaine are asked to be godparents by Myra and Stan, and Elaine must find a *mohel* to preside over the *bris* (circumcision rite). After sifting through MODELS and MOTELS in the Yellow Pages, she recruits a very unorthodox *mohel*. Even less kosher is what Kramer sees when visiting the baby in the hospital: A "pigman," or half-man, half-porker. George's version of the Promised Land—a parking space right outside the hospital—is ruined when a suicide leaper smashes in his roof. **GUEST STARS:** Jeannie Elias (Myra), Charles Levin (the *Mohel*), Tom Alan Robbins (Stan) **BACK STORIES:** We learn that Elaine was the belle of the ball at debutante parties and equestrian competitions. **MORE RELATIONSHIP RULES:** Jerry believes Myra and Stan are "level-jumping on our friendship" because he doesn't know them well enough to be godfather. Elaine agrees. **RATING:** ★★ George's raves are a riot; the ranting *mohel* is not. And the pigman subplot is just strange.



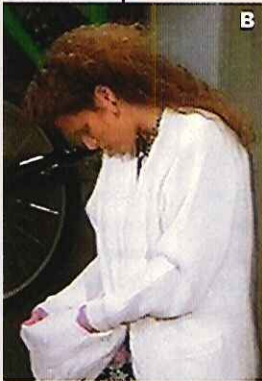

THE LIP READER

E P I S O D E 6 7

PREMIERED: 10/28/93 **WRITER:** Carol Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry goes gaga for Laura, a deaf lineswoman at the U.S. Open who can lip-read. George wants to employ her ability at a party, where he suspects his estranged girlfriend Gwen will reveal why she dumped George. But Laura lip-lapses, mistaking Gwen's offer to "sweep" for "sleep." Meanwhile, Elaine feigns deafness to shake off a chatty limo driver, until he gets a call to pick up Tom Hanks. Back at the Open, Kramer breaks "the ball barrier" but blows a career as ballman by careening into the top seed. **GUEST STARS:** Christopher Darga (Limo Driver), Linda Kash (Gwen), Marlee Matlin (Laura) **BACK STORIES:** We find out that Kramer has a deaf cousin. **RATING:** ★★★★★ Jerry, can you hear me? A funny farce about lack of communication.

PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR

From plot devices to character definers, *Seinfeld* style proved that on a show about nothing, appearances are everything. Here's a trip down the catwalk highlighting fashion moments that were integral to, well, the very fabric of the show.

	JERRY	ELAINE	GEORGE	KRAMER
THE LOOK	Nikes, button-downs, button-fly jeans ("One place in my wardrobe I do not need sharp interlocking teeth"; episode 37); relabels waists from 32" to 31". (113)	Moved from calf-length skirts, backpacks and flats to New York-style suits and heels. (Fortunately, has better taste in fashion than in men.)	Blue Nike's (white swoosh), Chinos, plaid shirts or Rugby pullovers. Keeps an old lift ticket on his jacket because "women like skiers" (48)	Owens melange of vintage bowling-style shirts, loose-fitting trousers and a babe-attracting jacket that he retrieved from his mother's boyfriend's apartment (26)
THE HAUTE ITEM	Bought expensive suede jacket (Kramer: "How much did you pay?" Jerry: "I paid what it cost") that was ruined in a snowstorm. (8)	Obsessed over Botticelli shoes that were annoyingly coveted by one of Jerry's girlfriends. (54)	Bought suit (on sale, of course) but discovered that the pants made a swooshing sound when his thighs rubbed together (76)	Modeled for Calvin Klein underwear ads (51). Need we say more?
THE FAUX PAS	Unknowningly agreed to wear a "puffy" shirt on the <i>Today</i> show (pictured, A) thanks to Kramer's "low talking" gal pal. (63) Runner-up: Sported "manfur" and European carry-all, a.k.a. purse. (160)	A Maryland native, had the balls to show up to the Yankees' owners box in an Orioles cap—and ends up getting thrown out of the game (37)	Adopted sweatpants look, much to Jerry's disgust: "You're telling the world...I can't compete in normal society. I'm miserable, so I might as well be comfortable." (61)	Wore jeans so tight, he couldn't get them off, even with help (D). Jerry: "You're gonna need the jaws of life to get out of those things." (125)
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THE 'DO (OR DON'T)	Attempted to switch barbers because of a bad haircut; caught in barber/Newman tress-pionage plot. (69)	"She's a pretty woman, kinda short, big wall of hair..." says George; cropped locks early in season 8.	Continuous follicle fallout; briefly sported a toupee under the encouragement of "recovered" cancer patient Gary (C) (95)	Hair started taking increasing flight around episode 10; temporarily flattened because of overzealous showerhead (119)
THE ACQUISITION	An Armani suit doesn't come cheap when gifter Kenny Bania insists on a meal at Mendys (not just soup!) in exchange. (89)	Cashmere sweater, Christmas present from George, came with a catch: the red dot responsible for its marked-down status (B) (29)	Wore a sable trapper's hat that Elaine charged to her J. Peterman expense account; used it as a "leave-behind" in a woman's apartment to ensure a second date (134)	Inherited Jerry's ruined suede jacket (see Jerry's "Haute Item") and refused to return leather coat Jerry had previously given him (8)
THE RANG-UP	Annoyed with girlfriend for always wearing the same outfit, a habit deemed acceptable only for superheroes. (117)	Retail rancor: Kidnapped look-alike store mannequin (76); battled with Barney's over misleading mirrors (91); tried to put Putumayo out of business (146)	Confided to date he owned 40 pairs of underwear; wants to amass at least 360 pairs so he only has to do laundry once a year (9)	Although worried about low sperm count, wouldn't switch from briefs to boxers because "my boys need a house." (86)

THE NONFAT YOGURT

EPISODE 68

PREMIERED: 11/04/93 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cheronas **STORY:** Kramer invests in a yogurt store where the nonfat fluff melts everybody. But when Jerry and Elaine pack on the pounds, the yogurt becomes

suspect. Mayoral candidate Rudy Giuliani vows to clean up yogurt fraud, while Jerry and George encounter Lloyd Braun—an unctious aide to incumbent Mayor David Dinkins. Lloyd grew up with George and is as successful as Le Loser is not, until he takes up Elaine's campaign suggestion that New Yorkers wear name tags so the

city is a friendlier place. Then his career gets crossed off the ballot. **GUEST STARS:** Rudy Giuliani (as himself), Harris (Estelle), Peter Keleghan (Lloyd), Stiller (Frank) **VICE BLEEP:** In an uncharacteristic outburst, Jerry spouts obscenities. So does a little boy who copies the comic. Both are bleeped. **DROPPING NAMES:** Frank

"THE FIRST TIME I HIT GEORGE, WHICH WAS JASON'S IDEA, I HIT HIM RIGHT ON HIS BALD SPOT, AND THE WHOLE CREW JUST LAUGHED. SO THEN ESTELLE [HARRIS] ASKED, 'CAN I HIT HIM, TOO?' BUT THEY SAID, 'NO ESTELLE. ONLY ONE PERSON CAN HIT JASON AT A TIME.'" —Jerry Stiller (Frank Costanza)

Costanza barks out of nowhere that "Tommy Tune is a good dancer. He's very tall." **RATING: ★★** The crudeness of the bleeps demeans the episode's sharp wit.

THE BARBER

EPISODE 69

PREMIERED: 11/11/93 **WRITER:** Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry cuts ties with barber Enzo after the tonsorial tyrant gives him a dorky 'do. Kramer convinces Jerry to take up with Gino, who tames Kramer's coif. George interviews at a rest-stop supply company called Sanalac, but the interview leaves more questions than answers. He shows up for work anyway and is given "the Pensky file." Clueless, he sleeps a lot, goes to office parties and arranges the Pensky papers in an accordion envelope. **GUEST STARS:** David Ciminello (Gino), Knight (Newman), Antony Ponzini (Enzo) **JOY OF JOHNS, I:** Enzo and Gino love "Edward Scissorhands" but wonder how Edward copes on the toilet. **JOY OF JOHNS, II:** Jerry lets Newman use his bathroom, provided he goes "number one" and "flushes twice." **BACK STORIES:** High school dropout Kramer has a GED. **RATING: ★** The barber bit needs shearing.

THE MASSEUSE

EPISODE 70

PREMIERED: 11/18/93 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Elaine dates a great guy with two drawbacks: He hasn't vomited in seven years, and he has the same name as serial killer Joel Rifkin. George is attracted to Jerry's new amour, Jodi, a masseuse who despises him: "A woman who hates me this much comes along once in a lifetime!" Jodi sleeps with Jerry but won't massage him, explaining, "I don't submit to forcible massage." **GUEST STARS:** Anthony Cistaro (Joel Rifkin), Jennifer Coolidge

(Jodi) **BACK STORIES:** Jerry tells Elaine he hasn't thrown up since September 29, 1980. **FUTURE SHOCK:** Elaine jokingly suggests that Joel change his handle to "O.J. Rifkin." An eerily prescient moment. **RATING: ★★** A vividly amusing case study of love's labors lost through self-absorption.

THE CIGAR STORE INDIAN

EPISODE 71

PREMIERED: 12/09/93 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry buys Elaine a cigar-store Indian because he feels guilty about making her ride the subway back home from the Costanza's. (Claiming she needs something to read for the ride, she grabs a TV GUIDE, not suspecting that she has robbed Frank Costanza of Vol. 41, No. 31, from his collection.) Jerry's crush on Elaine's poker pal Winona, a Native American, is thwarted because she's offended by the cigar-store Indian. And Jerry offends a

Chinese mailman when he asks him for directions to the nearest Chinese restaurant. Jerry's retort: "If somebody asks me which way is



The Smog Strangler gets away as George is throttled by his hunger for these in episode 41.

Israel, I don't fly off the handle." **GUEST STARS:** Carissa Channing (Sylvia), Kimberly Norris (Winona) **THE LOSER CHRONICLES:** George sleeps with furniture store clerk Sylvia in his parents' bed. His parents later find a prophylactic wrapper and ground him. **CELEB CAMEO:** Today's Al Roker **SEIN POST:** Kramer comes up with his idea for a coffee-table book about coffee tables. **RATING: ★★★★★** Equal-

opportunity knocking. And the GUIDE gag warms our hearts.

THE CONVERSION

EPISODE 72

PREMIERED: 12/16/93 **WRITER:** Bruce Kirschbaum **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** George falls for Sasha, who says they can't be together because it's against her religion, Latvian Orthodox. Sasha dumps him, throwing out a classic kiss-off: "I just don't feel ready to make a commitment yet. Maybe when I get back from Latvia." Jerry swoons for his neighbor, Tawni, but the ardor cools when Mr. Clean Freak discovers fungicide in her medicine cabinet. Yuck. Elaine wants to believe the podiatrist she's dating is really a doctor, but she's not sure he has the right credentials. And Kramer is on fire. A Latvian Orthodox nun has fallen hard for him, and he becomes convinced he carries the "curse of Kevorka, the lure of the animal." **GUEST STARS:** Kimberly Campbell (Tawni), Jana Marie Hupp (Sasha), Tom Verica (the Podiatrist) **SEIN LINES:** As he encourages her to order the lobster, George tells Sasha, "You know, you're the only woman I've never thought about the price." **BACK STORIES:** Both Jerry and George are left-handed. **LIP SERVICE:** Jerry actually has a convincing make-out scene with Tawni. **RATING: ★★** The Latvian Orthodox and fungicide storylines are priceless, but the Kevorka stretches thin.

THE STALL

EPISODE 73

PREMIERED: 01/06/94 **WRITER:** Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry dates Jane, who won't "share a square" of toilet tissue with Elaine in the ladies' room. And Jane has an even bigger vice: She's Kramer's phone-sex pal, although she's offended when Jerry accuses her of talking dirty. While Jerry follows Jane's paper trail, Elaine gets quite cozy with Tony, her hunky "mimbo." George is also smitten with Tony, so smitten that he and Kramer jump at the chance to go rock-climbing with the outdoorsman. Unfortunately, Tony gets a mouthful of

rocks when George loses his grip. **GUEST STARS:** Dan Cortese (Tony), Jami Gertz (Jane) **SEIN POST:** Jerry sits at his computer in two scenes. He appears to be working on a spreadsheet. **THE FUNNIES:** Elaine brings Superman comics to Tony in the hospital. Jerry taunts Elaine, saying Tony may wind up looking like "Zippy the Pinhead." **ODDITIES:** Jerry has five locks on his door, but people come and go through that portal with ease. **RATING:** ★★ The sharing-a-square stuff just seems square.

THE DINNER PARTY

EPISODE 74

PREMIERED: 02/03/94 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** On the way to a dinner party, the four decide to stop for wine and cake to bring to the hosts. By evening's end, Elaine gets into at least one fight with Barbara and David, also on their way to the party, and has her toe crushed, all in the pursuit of babka; Jerry's 14-year-long no-vomit streak ends after he munches a bad black-and-white cookie; George, who had suggested bringing Pepsi and Ring-Dings, loses all his money and his new Gore-Tex coat; and Kramer gets hypothermia. Oh, and Kramer's car gets blocked in by a double-parking Saddam Hussein. And the quartet never makes it to the party. **GUEST STARS:** Mark Holton (David), Kathryn Kates (Counterwoman), Frank Novak (Clerk), Suzy Soro (Barbara) **WHY SHE DOES SHAMPOO COMMERCIALS:** Declares Elaine: "Nobody takes better care of their hair than me. You could serve dinner on my head." **IT'S NOT EASY BEING GEORGE:** He admits he's "a little afraid" of Elaine. **RATING:** ★★ Although the four are at their most annoying, this is one of the seminal "about nothing" episodes and thus deserves a minor perch in the pantheon.

THE MARINE BIOLOGIST

EPISODE 75

PREMIERED: 02/10/94 **WRITERS:** Ron Hauge, Charlie Rubin **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Here are the seemingly sane things that happen: Elaine is assigned to edit the work of novelist Yuri Testikov; Kramer knocks golf balls into the ocean; Jerry tells George's "it girl" Diane that George is a marine biologist to impress her; Kramer gives Elaine an electronic pocket organizer. Here's how everything is *Seinfeldized*: Elaine's beeping gizmo enrages Testikov, who flings it out a limo's window, hitting a woman, Corinne, who traces it back to Jerry, who traces it back to Elaine, who goes up to Testikov's

hotel room with a squealing tape recorder, which enrages him, making him fling it out the window and bean the same poor woman. Meanwhile, George and Diane come upon a beached whale and a crowd of concerned people. "Is anyone here a marine biologist?" Why, yes. George sticks his hand into the blowhole and pulls out a golf ball. **GUEST STARS:** Rosalind Allen (Diane), Carol Kane (Corinne), Knight (Newman), George Murdock (Testikov) **CLOTHES ENCOUNTER:** Jerry mourns the deterioration of his "best" T-shirt, Golden Boy: "Golden Boy is slowly dying. Each wash brings him one step closer. That's what makes the



No fruit for you! In episode 62, Jerry attempts to secure mangoes for fruit offender Kramer.

T-shirt such a tragic figure." **CAREER DAY:** George to Jerry: "Why couldn't you make me an architect? You know I always wanted to pretend that I was an architect." **RATING:** ★★★★★ As intricately interwoven as a great Russian novel, this is an existential *Seinfeld* masterpiece.

THE PIE

EPISODE 76

PREMIERED: 02/17/94 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** The nerve! Jerry's date, Audrey, won't taste his favorite apple pie. Then after he spots Audrey's restaurateur dad, Poppie, leave the men's room without washing his hands, Jerry refuses to eat Poppie's pizza pie (much to Audrey's chagrin). Next it's George who won't bite: On a job interview with a man who likes employees to take his suggestions, George is served a pie baked by a vengeful chef whom George once tricked out of getting a suit. And Elaine, spotting a clothing-store mannequin that looks just like her, absconds with it. **GUEST STARS:** Lane Davies

(boss MacKenzie), Reni Santoni (Poppie), Suzanne Snyder (Audrey) **X-MAS SHOPPING HINT:** George wears a size 40-short suit. **LAW AND DISORDER:** Jerry, claiming to be Elaine's lawyer, cites legal precedents *Windell v. Mahoney* and the Charlie McCarthy hearings. **RATING:** ★★★★★ It's a funny slice of life.

THE STAND-IN

EPISODE 77

DATE FIRST AIRED: 02/24/94 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** George decides not to dump girlfriend Daphne, not because he likes her but because an acquaintance has predicted that George will dump her. Jerry goes to the hospital to cheer up his friend Fulton, and when

the guy doesn't respond, Jerry assumes his comedy routine is weak. So he develops a whole new act guaranteed to slay the guy—which, unfortunately, it does. Kramer's suggestion to his diminutive pal Mickey that he put lifts in his shoes leads Mickey to be shunned by other little people. The social crime: "heightening." And Elaine goes out with a guy who, "how shall I put this...he took it out. It. Out." **GUEST STARS:** Michael Rivkin (Fulton), Karla Tamburrelli (Daphne), Danny Woodburn (Mickey) **RATING:** ★★ The clever in-out bit is too little, too late.

THE WIFE

EPISODE 78

PREMIERED: 03/17/94 **WRITER:** Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry finds a locket in a jacket that belongs to his dry cleaner. As a reward, the cleaner offers a discount to Jerry and his family, with Jerry's new girlfriend, Meryl, passing herself off as Mrs. Jerry (prompting Uncle Leo to tell the senior Seinfelds that Jerry has gotten married). Elaine gets mixed signals



Jennifer Coolidge
JODI

This pain-in-the-neck masseuse wouldn't rub Jerry down. (70)

Kim Myers
PAM

Jerry wasn't "gaga" over her—until Kramer was. (128)

Susan Walters
MULVA? DOLORES?

Her name escaped him; in the end, so did she. (58)

Gina Gallego
GINA

A boyfriend in a coma? Now that's not very polite. (32)

Danette Tays
NICKI

She's a definite "10." Too bad she fell for Elaine's beau. (123)

Karen Fineman
GWEN

This two-faced gal only looked good in the right light. (158)

DATE LINE, NBC

NEVER HAS A SITCOM GUY SEEN SO MANY WOMEN COME AND GO. START KICKING YOURSELF NOW, JERRY. HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY. (TURN THE PAGE. THERE'S MORE!)

from Greg at the gym; he gives her an open-lip kiss but then wipes her water bottle before drinking from it. George is caught urinating in the health-club shower ("I was there! I saw a drain!"), while Kramer spaces out under a tanning lamp, leading to an embarrassing, minstrel-ish

entrance to his African-American girlfriend's family get-together. **GUEST STARS:** Courteney Cox (Meryl), Scott LaRose (Greg), Lesser (Uncle Leo), Barney Martin (Morty), Liz Sheridan (Helen) **RATING:** ★★★ Fluid, but there are too many dry spells, and it's all a bit draining.

THE RAINCOATS

EPISODE 79
ONE HOUR

PREMIERED: 04/28/94 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross, David, Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones
STORY: Jerry's parents are visiting for a few days en route to Paris. It's bad timing for Jerry, who hasn't been with present amour Rachel for so long, he's starting to feel "backed up." It's even worse for Elaine, whose new "close talker" boyfriend Aaron seems obsessed with Jerry's parents. But it's great news for Kramer, who partners with Jerry's dad



Jami Gertz

JANE

Ladies room alert: She won't spare a square! (73)

Lori Loughlin

PATTY

She got Jerry to show his anger. He did. He dumped her. (151)

Melinda Clarke

ALEX

Removing his chest hair for her became a chore. (147)

Melanie Smith

RACHEL

Making out during "Schindler's List"? For shame. (79, 81)

Justine Miceli

NINA

She dated George, slept with Jerry and dumped both. (156)

Paula Marshall

SHARON

This reporter outed Jerry and George, then walked out. (55)

to sell Morty's beltless raincoats. Somehow, by show's end, Jerry and Rachel get caught by Newman making out during "Schindler's List," a lie lands George in Paris with an obnoxious kid, and Jerry's parents end up in the middle of the ocean face-to-face with the lunatic Costanzas. **GUEST STARS:** Sandy Baron (Jack), Harris (Estelle), Knight (Newman), Martin (Morty), Judge Reinhold (Aaron), Sheridan (Helen), Melanie Smith (Rachel), Stiller (Frank) **THE BALD TRUTH FROM GEORGE:** "Hey, believe me, baldness will catch on. When the aliens come, who do you think they're going to relate to?" **GREAT**

MINDS SHRIEK ALIKE: Both Frank Costanza and Kramer have an inordinate fear of mice. **ALL IN THE FAMILY:** Jerry's mother does a "Hello, Newmannnn." **RATING: ★★½** A bit too long to sustain the hilarity, but the "Schindler's List" make-out is a classic, and the Costanza madness is in wonderful bipolar high gear.

THE FIRE

EPISODE 80

PREMIERED: 05/05/94 **WRITER:** Charles

DIRECTOR: Cheronos **STORY:** George, invited to the birthday party of girlfriend Robin's son, causes a house fire, runs in a scream-

ing panic, bowls over toddlers, shoves old ladies with walkers and leaves them all to get braised in the blaze. (Luckily, the fire is extinguished by a giant clown shoe). George then explains all this as an act of heroism: "Because, as the leader, if I die, then all hope is lost." Elsewhere, other *Seinfeld*ians do get burned, this time by loud, ultrawired Toby, editor on Kramer's coffee table coffee-table book, who ruins Jerry's show by heckling him and earning him a disastrous *Entertainment Weekly* review. Jerry's revenge—heckling her while she works—leads to Toby's severing a pinkie toe, and Kramer



Christine Taylor

ELLEN

Jerry's parents think she's perfect. That can't be good. (140)

Kristin Bauer

GILLIAN

She's gorgeous, but those meaty paws! (129)

Marlee Matlin

LAURA

This U.S. Open lineswoman faulted while lip-reading. (67)

Lisa Deanne

CHRISTIE

Donning the same outfit for every visit? Tsk, tsk. (117)

Debra Messing

BETH

The "anti-dentite" made a tragic, biting remark. (125, 146)

Lauren Graham

VALERIE

She made him No. 1 on her speed-dial. Big mistake. (146)

courageously rushing it to the hospital in a Crackerjack box filled with ice. **GUEST STARS:** Melanie Chartoff (Robin), Veanne Cox (Toby), Dom Irrera (Ronnie), Jon Favreau (Clown) **AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS:** Prop-comic Ronnie stands in awe of Jerry going to Toby's office to heckle her: "You're like Rosa Parks. You opened the door for all of us." **RATING:** ★★★ Less clever than other episodes but hot nonetheless.

THE HAMPTONS

EPISODE 81

PREMIERED: 05/12/94 **WRITERS:** Mehlman, Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Carol and

Michael's new baby means a weekend at the proud parents' summer house in East Hampton, a mooching offer nobody wants to refuse. Jerry hopes to rekindle his romance with Rachel, who has been off-limits since their "Schindler's List" make-out fiasco, while George expects to finally get up close and naked with new heartthrob Jane. Before too long, everybody has seen Jane topless except George, the baby is so ugly viewers lurch away as if felled by anthrax, and Rachel accidentally comes upon a nude, post-cold-swim George suffering from "shrinkage." **GUEST STARS:** Richard Burgi

(Ben), Lisa Mende (Carol), Steven Prutting (Michael), Smith (Rachel), Melora Walters (Jane) **TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT:** Jerry never has and never will wear silk underwear: "No, not for me—a little too delightful." **RATING:** ★★ The comedy strains, and George's episode-ending act of revenge is far too mean-spirited.

THE OPPOSITE

EPISODE 82

PREMIERED: 05/19/94 **WRITERS:** Andy Cowan, David, Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry opines, "If every instinct you have is wrong, then the opposite would have to



Jann Karam

SANDI

She was baited, then nearly switched, after not laughing at Jerry's jokes. (93)

Jennifer Campbell

TIA VAN CAMP

Jerry dated this model until she fingered him for "the pick." (50, 51)

Athena Massey

MELANIE

Pronging peas one at a time? *Puli-leeze!* (105)

Marita Geraghty

MARGARET

Dumped years ago by Newman. Ouch. (84)

Angela Dohrmann

DONNA CHANG

What, not Chinese? You're fortune's run out, cookie. (86)

be right." Lightbulb time. Soon, whatever George believes in his gut he should do, he does the opposite. A good woman, his dream job with the Yankees, his own apartment, they all come to pass. But Elaine's on another path: Inappropriate Jujyfruit behavior loses her a boyfriend and helps to deep-six the publishing house she works for (thus killing the coffee-table book of Kramer, who has just appeared on *Live With Regis & Kathie Lee*), and she's being kicked out of her apartment. "Can't you see what's happened?!" she cries. "I've become George!" **GUEST STARS:** Larry David (as the voice of

NAOMI KALTMAN FOR TV GUIDE. STYLIST: ALEX GUTIERREZ/HELLER. COOLIDGE: DRESS, VIVIANNE TAM/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHOES, PRADA. MYERS: DRESS, SUSAN LAZAR/CURVE; SHOES, STUART WEITZMAN. WALTERS: DRESS, ANA MOLINARI/FRED SEGAL; SHOES, STUART WEITZMAN. GALLEGO: DRESS, KOSTUM/CURVE; SHOES, DOLCE & GABBANA/MADISON. TAYS: DRESS, VELVET/CURVE; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. EARRINGS, JENNIFER KAUFMAN. TIEBARK: DRESS, SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. GURTE: TOP, SHIRT, SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE; BRACELET, JEN NIFER KAUFMAN. LOUGHUN: DRESS, KATHIRINE HAMNETT/LISA KLINE; SHOES, DOLCE & GABBANA/MADISON. CLARKE: DRESS, EDUARDO LUCERO/LA; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. EARRINGS, JEN NIFER KAUFMAN. SMITH: DRESS, KATAYONE ADELL/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHOES, GIANNI BARBATO/REVA K. MICELLE: DRESS, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE; SHOES, CALVIN KLEIN/BLOOMINGDALE'S. MARSHALL: DRESS, ST. VINCENT/CURVE; SHOES, RINALDI/REVA K. CARRINGS, JENNIFER KAUFMAN. TAYLOR: TOP, WILLIAM B./BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHIRT, KOSTUM; SHOES, CHARLES DAVID/BLOOMINGDALE'S. BAUER: DRESS, ELIZABETTA ROGANI/COURTNEY LA; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. MATLIN: TOP, KATAYONE ADELL/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SKIRT, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE; SHOES, GIANNI BARBATO/REVA K. DEANE: DRESS, ANNARITA CELANO/CURVE; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. MESSING: DRESS, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE; SHOES, CALVIN KLEIN/BLOOMINGDALE'S. GRAHAM: DRESS, ANDREA POLCZ; TOP, RICK LESTER/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. KRAMER: DRESS, KUSZA/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. CAMPBELL: DRESS, EDUARDO LUCERO/LA; SHOES, STUART WEITZMAN. MASSEY: DRESS, ALONCO/NYSC; SHOES, DOLCE & GABBANA/MADISON. GERAGHTY: DRESS, ONLY HEARTS BY HELENA STUART/LISA KLINE; SHOES, CALVIN KLEIN/BLOOMINGDALE'S. DOHRMANN: DRESS, VIGAL AZOVIEL/LISA KLINE; SHOES, STUART WEITZMAN. HAIR & MAKEUP: BRETT FREEDMAN/CELESTINE, SHARON GAULT/HELLER, SYLVIA VIAU/CLOUTIER, KALI/CELESTINE, HELEN JEFFERS/CLOUTIER, BARBARA FARMON/CLOUTIER, BETHANY KARLYN/HELLER.

George Steinbrenner), Richard Fancy (Lippman), Harris (Estelle), Regis Philbin and Kathie Lee Gifford (as themselves), Rackham (Jake), Smith (Rachel), Stiller (Frank) **SEIN POSTS:** Dedee Pfeiffer, later of *Cybill*, plays George's girlfriend, while a small part as a movie-theater manager is played by French Stewart, now of *3rd Rock From the Sun*. **REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS DISASTERS:** When Kramer announces he's

going to be promoting his book on *Regis & Kathie Lee*, Jerry remarks, "I'll loan you my puffy shirt" (see episode 63). **RATING: ★★** The cleverness of this fifth-season ender and the thrill of watching George ride the glorious wave to what must inevitably become a disastrous wipeout, override some pretty predictable plotting. And seeing Regis and Kathie Lee get spit on is worth any amount of stars.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH...

George

He is the first out of a burning building, even if it means knocking down women and children. If he ever pays for anything, he goes to extraordinary lengths to make sure the recipient is aware of it.

He has no career to speak of, looks like "Humpty Dumpty with a melon head" and is dependent upon (although he loathes) his parents. Yet few women are good enough for the self-described "Lord of the Idiots."

George's most successful relationship began at JFK High School in Queens (class of '71), when he fell off a rope in gym class and landed on Jerry's head. Of his fictitious careers, architect and marine biologist are most impressive. His main pastime is sitting at Monk's discussing daily minutiae. After decades of failure, he finally hit upon a surefire recipe for handling daily challenges: listening to his instincts, then doing the opposite.

George is a self-pitying, egotistic, pathetic man. But next to him, don't we all look great? Maybe that's why Jerry keeps him around.

NICKNAMES: Georgie Boy, Boy George, George Bonanza, the Little Bulldog, Can't-stand-ya

THE EARLY YEARS: An only child, George grew up in a small but conflict-ridden house on Queens Boulevard in Flushing, where he honed his talent for parallel parking and developed an aversion to paying for parking (his parents liken it to frequenting hookers). Here he also learned how to face life's inevitable difficulties. "I come from a long line of quitters. I was raised to give up!"

WHAT HE SEES IN THE MIRROR: A "short, stocky, slow-witted bald man"

WHAT OTHERS SPOT: See above.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE: Toilet paper, superheroes, nose picking

A FEW OF HIS FAVORITE THINGS: Having sex, eating and watching TV, preferably simultaneously; velvet; lesbians; the *Daily News* (his reason for getting up); bathroom stalls (not urinals); Gore-Tex jackets

HEROES: Mickey Mantle, man about town Art Vandelay

MOST USEFUL TRAIT: Ability to lie in any situation

PHOBIAS: Metal detectors, because he might step into another dimension; carrying pens in his pants pocket because they might puncture his scrotum; getting married

PET PEEVES: Including but not limited to atomic wedgies, shrinkage, reading, Seattle (the pesto of cities), yada, yada.

ANTISOCIAL ACTS: Double-dipping chips, eating eclairs from the trash, peeing in the health-club shower and on the wall of a parking garage

FAVORITE EROTICA: *Glamour* magazine

NOM DE PORN: If ever cast in an adult film, he would go by the name Buck Naked.

DREAM DATE: Marisa Tomei (except she slapped him when she learned he was engaged, then hung up on him when he said he was free because his fiancée had died a few days ago).

PERCEIVED FATAL FLAW: "Women always think I'm nice. But women don't want nice."

LOVE OF HIS LIFE: Fiancée Susan met an untimely death after licking the glue on their el cheapo (at his insistence) wedding envelopes. Spent three nanoseconds grieving before going to get coffee at Monk's with his pals.

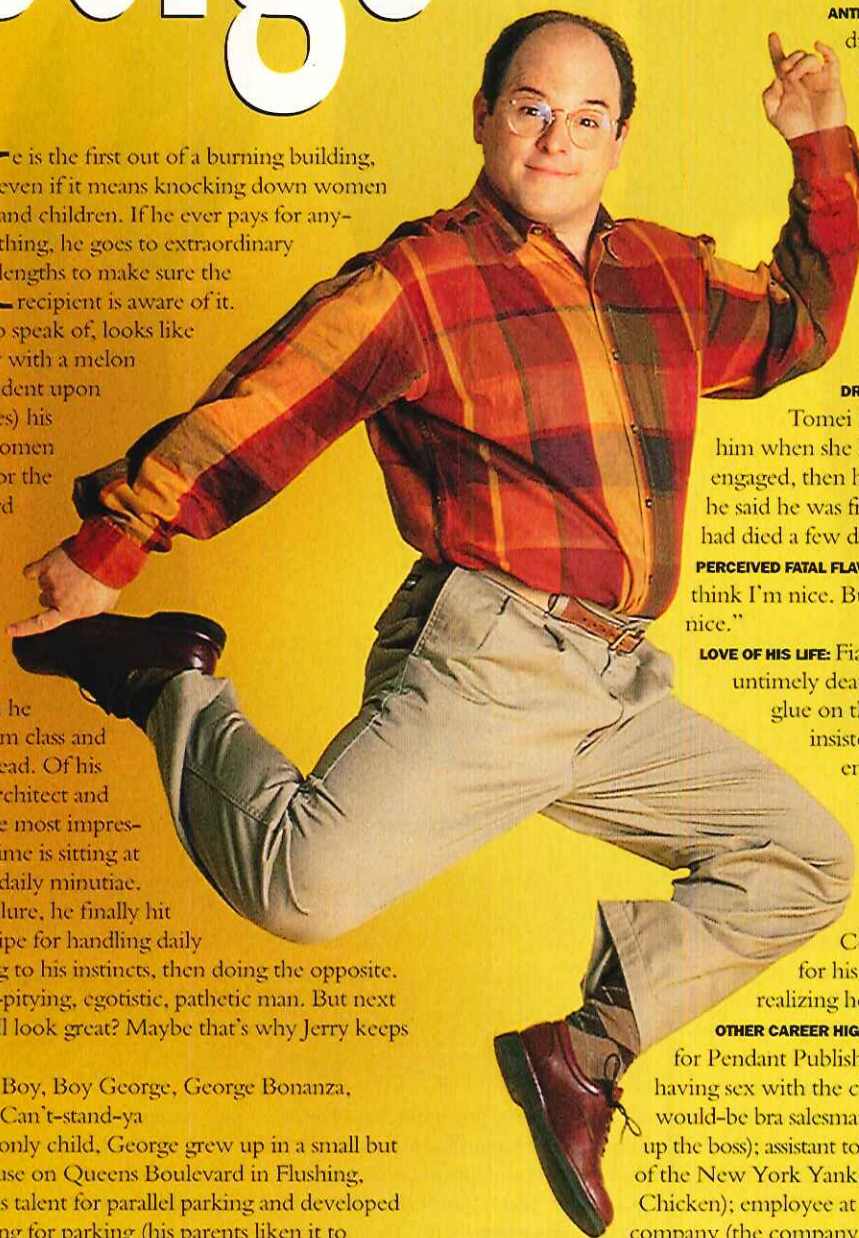
SMARTEST CAREER MOVE:

Continuing to show up for his real estate job after realizing he shouldn't have quit.

OTHER CAREER HIGH POINTS: Proofreader for Pendant Publishing (he was fired for having sex with the cleaning woman); would-be bra salesman (until he tried to feel up the boss); assistant to the traveling secretary of the New York Yankees (traded to Tyler Chicken); employee at a sporting-equipment company (the company eventually folded).

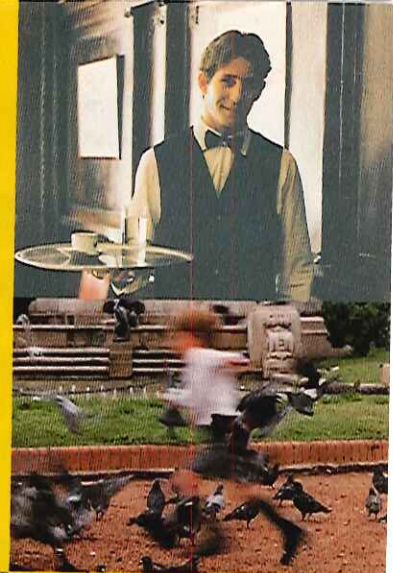
SOMEDAY HOPES TO: Own more than 360 pairs of underwear, so laundry day comes only once a year; have the upper hand in a relationship; get money without having to earn it

FINAL WISH: To die without dignity. After all, he's lived his whole life in shame.





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Now TV's top-rated comedy, supported by hot Thursday-night arrivals *Friends* and *ER*, *Seinfeld* marked another milestone with its 100th episode during its sixth season. In a special celebrating the occasion, here's how real Jerry described the decidedly un-*Friend*-ly world he created: "There have been some relationships that haven't worked out. Ambitions that were not fulfilled. Hopes dashed. Some property damage. Hurt feelings. I know one guy got deported. Physical injury. And all right, maybe even a death or two. But we've persevered. Because we're people. Real TV people."

Real funny TV people, who never encountered a situation that couldn't be turned into a farce. Witness this season's spoof of the O.J. Simpson Bronco chase and the season finale's Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan parody by way of Bette Midler's understudy. But as the show's tone got broader and wackier, critics began to wonder if *Seinfeld* had lost some of its original magic, a debate that would continue through the rest of its run.

Still, as *Seinfeld*'s universe expanded, we would welcome more oddballs who seemed to come and go by some cosmic whim: pesty comic Kenny Bania; Elaine's peculiar bosses, the fussily autocratic Mr. Pitt; and later the preposterous J. Peterman. Of all her many boyfriends, none would have the staying power of face-painting mechanic David Puddy, who would re-enter her romantic life with perplexing persistency.

And while George had his share of moments—donning a toupee (only to date a bald woman) and buying (so he thought) Jon Voight's car—this particular season belonged to Kramer, sculptor of pasta likenesses (the "fusilli Jerry" and the "macaroni Midler") and designer of the men's bra.

Call him Cosmo (the revelation of his first name was something of a media event). Call him ASSMAN (the ultimate vanity plate). Call him *Seinfeld*'s most incorrigible "real TV person."



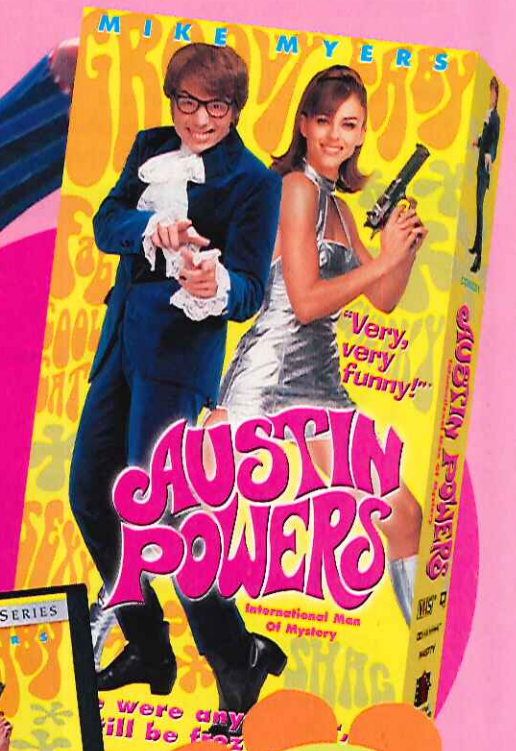
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THE CHAPERONE

EPISODE 83

PREMIERED: 09/22/94 **WRITERS:** Larry David, Bill Masters, Bob Shaw **DIRECTOR:** Andy Ackerman **STORY:** At a Yankees game, Jerry picks up Karen, a.k.a. Miss Rhode Island ("I was almost Mr. Coffee. They felt I was a little too relaxed"). But the Miss America pageant requires dates to be chaperoned, so Jerry enlists Kramer, who becomes Karen's consultant. But when Jerry accidentally kills Karen's doves, he kills her magic act, too, so she's forced to sing "It's a Most Unusual Day," off-key. **GUEST STARS:** Ian Abercrombie (Justin Pitt), Marguerite MacIntyre (Karen), Buck Showalter and Danny Tartabull (as themselves) **SOCK TRAUMA:** Elaine is hired as a personal assistant to millionaire Justin Pitt, who has her finding socks with just the right elasticity. **CLOTHES ENCOUNTER:** George engineers a Yankee uniform switch ("Cotton breathes. It's much softer"). **RATING:** ★★ Kramer

as pageant pundit? Hard to buy. Elaine as Pitt's personal assistant? Inspired.

THE BIG SALAD

EPISODE 84

PREMIERED: 09/29/94 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George is indignant when girlfriend Julie gets credit for buying Elaine a "big salad" at Monk's. When Jerry learns that new love Margaret was once dumped by Newman, he's unable to kiss her. After Kramer spars with golfing partner Steve Gendason, the former ballplayer goes on a rampage and kills Bobby Pincus, owner of Royal Dry Cleaners. In an unexpected O.J. spoof, Kramer is aboard as Gendason flees in a white Bronco. On the horn with the highway patrol, Kramer borrows from Al Cowlings: "My name is Kramer. You know who I am, dammit." **GUEST STARS:** Michelle Forbes (Julie), Marita Geraghty

(Margaret), Dean Hall (Gendason), Wayne Knight (Newman) **PARANOIA REARS ITS UGLY HEAD:** Says George: "Did you see what just happened here?" **RATING:** ★★ The big-salad story is a hearty morsel, but the O.J.-like chase is too much dressing.

THE PLEDGE DRIVE

EPISODE 85

PREMIERED: 10/06/94 **WRITERS:** Tom Gammill, Max Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry cashes an old \$50 check from his Nana. But the account has long been dormant, so Nana sets off for the bank at 5:30 A.M. Reports Uncle Leo: "Your Nana is missing.... She hasn't left the apartment in 25 years." Meanwhile, Jerry thinks Elaine's friend Noreen is flirting with him. Elaine spills the beans when she mistakes Noreen's "high talking" beau, Dan, for Noreen herself. **GUEST STARS:** Abercrombie (Pitt), Kelly Coffield (Noreen), Len Lesser (Uncle Leo), Brian Reddy (Dan), Billye Ree Wallace (Nana)

LOVE ON THE ROCKS

Who would have guessed that Puddy (below)—the face painting, eight-ball jacket/man-fur wearing, squinting auto mechanic who stole Jerry's "move"—would have made for Elaine's most successful relationship in nine years? Then again, look at her track record. In a long line of losers, can you match Elaine's man with her misery?

1. Roy, a.k.a. Triangle Boy (Sherman Howard)
2. Owen (Edward Penn)
3. Keith Hernandez (as himself)
4. "Crazy" Joe Davola (Peter Crombie)
5. Fred (Tony Carlin)
6. Jake (Marty Rackham)
7. Joel Rifkin (Anthony Cistaro)
8. Tony (Dan Cortese)
9. Phil (Mark Tymchyshyn)
10. Aaron (Judge Reinhold)
11. Maestro, a.k.a. Bob (Mark Metcalf)
12. Craig (Harry Van Gorkum)
13. Todd Gack (John D'Aquino)
14. Brett (James Patrick Stuart)
15. Alan (Tom Gallop)
16. Kurt (John Michael Higgins)
17. Blaine (Todd Jeffries)
18. Glenn (Nicholas Paul Walker)
19. Ben (Bob Odenkirk)
20. Kevin (Tim DeKay)



- A. "Religious guy" who can't get past "the nip" (51)
- B. Refuses to admit they're dating (123)
- C. "Mimbo" rock climber (73)
- D. Pretentious hack conductor (107, 120)
- E. Formerly corpulent fellow who stuffs his face after a splenectomy (58)
- F. "Doctor" who can't seem to pass his licensing test (135)
- G. Loves "The English Patient" (she hates it) (143)
- H. Will be balding by the time he gets out of prison (137)
- I. "Desperado"-obsessed furniture designer who won't share his song (133)
- J. Shares his name with a serial killer (70)
- K. Only-in-it-for-the-sex 66-year-old who suffers a stroke (28)
- L. Obsessive stalker with a penchant for "I Pagliacci" (44)
- M. Former ballplayer who smokes (34)
- N. Married welfare recipient (162)
- O. Exclamation-point-free writer (65)
- P. Bad breaker-upper who points out Elaine's giant-size head (136)
- Q. Takes "it" out on the first date (77)
- R. So overeager, he gets a vasectomy after learning she doesn't want kids (she then changes her mind) (128)
- S. Overly friendly "close talker" (79)
- T. Clothing salesman who can't deliver on his employee discount (122)

ANSWERS: 1) e; 2) k; 3) m; 4) f; 5) a; 6) o; 7) j; 8) c; 9) q; 10) s; 11) d; 12) t; 13) b; 14) f; 15) p; 16) h; 17) e; 18) n; 19) f; 20) r

MR. MANNERS: How long do you keep a greeting card? "The rule is a minimum of two days," George says. **PRISSIER THAN THOU?** Mr. Pitt sparks a trend when he eats a Snickers bar with a fork. **RATING: ★★★** Dan, Nana, Leo: The guest stars shine.

THE CHINESE WOMAN

EPISODE 86

PREMIERED: 10/13/94 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** On the phone, Jerry mistakenly assumes new love interest Donna Chang—a fan of Confucius and acupuncture—is Chinese. Meanwhile, Jerry and Elaine spot George's dad with a suspicious man in a cape, only to learn that he's counseling Frank on his marital split. George's lament: "Who wears a cape?" Chang's sage advice reunites the Costanzas, but upon meeting her, Estelle shrieks, "She's not Chinese. I was duped!" **GUEST STARS:** Coffield (Noreen), Angela Dohrmann (Donna Chang), Estelle Harris (Estelle), Jerry Stiller (Frank) **DAMSEL DISTRESSED:** Noreen switches to a "long talker." **PRIVATE PARTS:** Kramer's sperm count is low, but he resists switching to boxers: "My boys need a house." **RATING: ★★★** You relish Kramer's joy as he opts to go without. "There's nothing holding me in place! I'm flipping. I'm flopping." And once again, *Seinfeld* toys with our politically incorrect stereotypes.

THE COUCH

EPISODE 87

PREMIERED: 10/27/94 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine falls for the moving man who delivers Jerry's couch, then frets that he might be pro-life. "I'm sure he's pro-choice," she tries to convince herself. "Why?" Jerry asks. "He's just so good-looking," she responds. Meanwhile, Kramer goes into the pizza biz with antiabortionist Poppie, and they, too, argue. "You can't give people the right to choose any topping they want," Poppie says. Kramer insists: "It's not pizza until it comes out of the oven." **GUEST STARS:** David James Elliott (Carl), Jessica Hecht (Lindsay), Reni Santoni (Poppie) **LA-Z-BOY:** Jerry's *amore* for his couch dissipates when Poppie has an accident (in the canine sense) on it. **LITERARY LIES:** Fellow book-club member Lindsay nails George for not having read *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. **RATING: ★★★** Infused with politics, this episode proves the show is best when it's about nothing.

THE GYMNAST

EPISODE 88

PREMIERED: 11/03/94 **WRITERS:** Alec Berg, Jeff Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry pursues Romanian gymnast Katya, hoping for acrobatic sex, but he finds little to say on a date except "Ceausescu, he must have been some dictator." George is caught



According to Stiller, producers were initially concerned that the Manssiere (episode 98) looked too feminine.

demands to be taken out again. ("This is the dinner," Jerry insists. "The soup counts.") On a walk in Central Park, George mentions liking horse manure, and his date, Monk's waitress Kelly, suddenly reveals the existence of a boyfriend. By the end, Kelly and the suit have disappeared, but Bania continues to pop in and out of *Seinfeld* forevermore. **GUEST STARS:** Daniel Gerroll (Simon), Stephen Hytner (Kenny Bania), Tracy Kolis (Kelly) **THE MOTHER TONGUE:** Elaine's snobby British

munching on an éclair from Lindsay's (now his girlfriend) mother's trash. (Jerry: "You, my friend, have crossed the line that divides man and bum.") Later, Jerry hits Madison Square Garden to see Katya in the circus, but she ditches him for a Russian with a high-wire act. Or *had* one: His performance hits bottom when he's distracted by a shriek that signals the passing of Kramer's kidney stones. **GUEST STARS:** Abercrombie (Pitt), Hecht (Lindsay) Elina Lowensohn (Katya), Lois Nettleton (Lindsay's mom) **INDECENT EXPOSURE:** George, on why he takes his shirt off when he goes to the bathroom: "It frees me up. No encumbrances." **RATING: ★★★** You can relish George's quirky eating habits, but the circus finale is over the (big) top.

THE SOUP

EPISODE 89

PREMIERED: 11/10/94 **WRITER:** Fred Stoller **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry takes third-rate comedian Kenny Bania to dinner at Mendy's after Bania gives him an Armani suit. But Bania only orders soup and

boyfriend, Simon, lectures her for saying "What?" instead of "Pardon?" **RATING: ★★★** What qualifies as a meal? The debate will leave you hungry for more.

THE MOM & POP STORE

EPISODE 90

PREMIERED: 11/17/94 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Le George buys a LeBaron, thinking it once belonged to Jon Voight. Kramer takes Jerry's shoes to be cleaned at a mom-and-pop store, leaving only a pair of boots ("I don't want to be a cowboy," Jerry whines). Elaine helps Mr. Pitt win a contest so he can help hold the Woody Woodpecker balloon in the Macy's parade. Everyone ends up at dentist Tim Whatley's pre-Thanksgiving party, where uninvited Jerry knocks a trophy from the windowsill. Landing spot? Right atop Le Woody. **GUEST STARS:** Abercrombie (Pitt), Bryan Cranston (Whatley), Michael Robello (Pop), Elsa Raven (Mom), Jon Voight (as himself) **SMALL BUSINESS MINISTRATION:** "If my mom and pop ran a store," says George, "I

wouldn't shop there." **RATING: ★★☆☆**
A fast-moving, knee-slapping romp through Manhattan that ends with a send-up of "Midnight Cowboy."

THE SECRETARY

EPISODE 91

PREMIERED: 12/08/94 **WRITERS:** Carol Leifer, Marjorie Gross **DIRECTOR:** David Owen Trainor **STORY:** Jerry suspects nice Willie and his wife of violating the dry-cleaning code by wearing his clothes. Elaine charges that the Barneys dressing-room mirror is giving "false reflection." George refuses a good-looking job seeker—"I would give up red meat just to get a glimpse of you in a bra"—then has a fling with his at-first unsexy new secretary, Ada. And Kramer's "classic" suit continues to make the rounds, forcing Jerry to spring for two more dinners. **GUEST STARS:** Hytner (Bania), Vicki Lewis (Ada), Joseph R. Sicari (Willie) **DASHED DREAMS:** A moisturizer mishap prevents Kramer from hooking up with Uma Thurman. **RATING: ★★** Funny threads, but this loosely woven episode doesn't keep us in stitches.

THE RACE

EPISODE 92

PREMIERED: 12/15/94 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross, David, Sam Kass **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine's communist boyfriend, Ned, wins over Kramer, who starts reciting the party line in his new job as a department-store Santa. George answers a personal ad in the *Daily Worker*. Elaine claims Hop Sing restaurant screwed up her order, landing herself on the do-not-deliver list. And Jerry is forced to fight for his honor: Girlfriend Lois's boss is a high school classmate who has always believed Jerry cheated in a track race and wants a rematch. **GUEST STARS:** Todd Kimsey (Ned), Renee Props (Lois), Danny Woodburn (Mickey) **LOOK FOR:** A quick Vicki Lewis reprise as Ada. **MAN OF STEEL:** While the "Superman" theme plays after Jerry's triumph, his girlfriend invites him to Florida. Jerry: "Maybe I will, Lois, maybe I will." **RATING: ★★☆☆** Can appeal to the masses.

THE SWITCH

EPISODE 93

PREMIERED: 01/05/95 **WRITERS:** Bruce Kirschbaum, Kass **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George plots to catch his model girlfriend, Nina, in the bathroom because he believes she's bulimic ("Of course I'm concerned. I'm paying for those meals"). Kramer enlists his mother, ladies' room



Bette at bat: When guest star Midler steps up to the plate in a charity game (104), can disaster be far behind?

matron Babs, to help find out, but she also spills the beans on Kramer's first name: Cosmo. Meanwhile, Jerry suggests a ménage à trois in his scheme to switch from humorless girlfriend Sandi to her bubbly roommate, Laura. **GUEST STARS:** Jann Karam (Sandi), Knight (Newman), Charlotte Lewis (Nina), Heather Medway (Laura), Sheree North (Babs), Gail Strickland (Landis) **ANOTHER FOILED SCHEME:** Elaine gets nabbed as she tries to steal back Mr. Pitt's tennis racket from Doubleday editor Landis. **RATING: ★★☆☆** "Cosmo?" A trivial question answered makes for an episode that is out of this world.

THE LABEL MAKER

EPISODE 94

PREMIERED: 01/19/95 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Because Jerry gave him his Super Bowl tickets, Tim Whatley gives Jerry a label maker, but it's the same one that Elaine gave Tim for Christmas. Soon Jerry wants his tickets back, especially when he finds out Tim has invited Newman. "Who goes to the Super Bowl with their mailman?" George asks. "Who goes anywhere with Newman?" Jerry responds. Elaine asks to go "upstairs" to Tim's apartment so she can see whether he "regifted." Instead, he disinvites Newman and asks Elaine to the game. She never makes it, but Newman does. **GUEST STARS:** Cleto Augusto (Scott), Cranston (Whatley), Knight (Newman), Jessica Tuck (Bonnie) **NOW WHAT?** George complains to girlfriend Bonnie about her male roommate, Scott, so she kicks Scott

out. Then George finds that all the velvet he so loved went with him. **RATING: ★★☆☆** An episode that keeps on giving.

THE SCOFFLAW

EPISODE 95

PREMIERED: 01/26/95 **WRITER:** Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George's friend Gary Fogel offers him a spot in a parking garage in exchange for not divulging his lie about having cancer. Jerry, who had given Fogel a hair-club membership, is forced to hold his tongue as well. Elaine plots a way to wreak havoc on pompous Jake Jarmel (episode 82). In a *Moby Dick* moment, Kramer learns Newman is the "white whale" ticket scofflaw that an eye-patch-wearing cop has been tracking. **GUEST STARS:** Daniel Benzali (Officer), Jon Lovitz (Gary Fogel), Marty Rackham (Jake Jarmel) **YOU GOTTA HAVE HAND:** Says Elaine of her ex: "He made the last contact between us. I had the upper hand in the postbreakup relationship." **RATING: ★★** The Fogel chemotherapy deception is on solid footing, but the fiasco with Newman as white whale doesn't hold water.

THE BEARD

EPISODE 96

PREMIERE: 02/09/95 **WRITER:** Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine's latest romance is doomed when she attempts to convert her gay friend Robert. Jerry tries to impress an attractive female cop but ends up strapped to a polygraph machine to determine whether he watches *Melrose Place*. George's toupee gets tossed out the

window, and Kramer participates in police lineups for \$50 a pop. **GUEST STARS:** Katherine Lanasa (Cathy the female cop), Robert Mailhouse (Robert) **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE:** Says Jerry: "I have access to one of the most deceitful, duplicitous, deceptive minds of our times. Who better to advise me?" **THE RULES:** Why getting a gay man to "switch teams" is futile: "They're only comfortable with their equipment," says Jerry. **HISTORIC MOMENT:** Jerry does the "Get out!" push on Elaine. **RATING: ★★** George, Elaine and Jerry hit a homer, striking a balance between hateful shallowness and underlying lovability, but Kramer's thin storyline fouls out.

THE KISS HELLO

EPISODE 97

PREMIERED: 02/16/95 **WRITERS:** David, Jerry Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry and George get rubbed the wrong way by Elaine's physical therapist friend, Wendy: Jerry because she pecks him on the cheek hello and George because of her inflexible billing policies. Kramer then posts Jerry's picture in the building lobby, resulting in more casual kissing. When Jerry rebels, the entire building turns against him. Elsewhere, Jerry's Uncle Leo puts Nana in a nursing home to keep her quiet about an old debt. **GUEST STARS:** Lesser (Uncle Leo), Seinfeld ex and Elaine prototype Carol Leifer (Wendy's receptionist), Wendie Malick (Wendy) **MINUTIAE MOMENT:** Jerry to George: "If they make squeeze mustard, doesn't it stand to reason that they make squeeze ketchup?" **...AND NO PARENTAL ADVISORY:** After Jerry complains about being kissed on the cheek, Kramer plants a wet one on him—on the lips—as George walks in. **RATING: ★★** Jerry turns in a respectable performance, displaying his disdain of intimacy in a humorously warped episode that's wrapped fairly tight.

THE DOORMAN

EPISODE 98

PREMIERED: 02/23/95 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry becomes unhinged by a doorman who needles him: "You really think you're better than me, don't ya?" Jerry briefly takes over the job, but his friendly overture backfires when a couch is stolen from the lobby. Meanwhile, Kramer fastens George's bosomy father with an undergarment designed specifically for top-heavy men. The two then set off to manufacture the Manssiere—or Bro, if you prefer. **GUEST STARS:** Patrick Cronin (Farkus), Harris (Estelle), Larry Miller (Doorman), Stiller

SEIN OF THE TIMES

Through the years, *Seinfeld* has made pointed and sometimes pointless references to pop-culture phenomena, from superheroes to silly trends. Below, how some of the noteworthy minutiae of everyday life entered TV's bizarre world.

PERSONALITIES

Superman Jerry has a pocket full of Kryptonite for his favorite superhero. **Mickey Mantle** Kramer accidentally punches out his hero at the Yankees fantasy camp. (episode 53) **Mary Hart** The *Entertainment Tonight* cohost has a voice that literally floors Kramer: He ends up prone from a seizure. (36) **Gandhi** Elaine volunteers her time with an older woman who waxes nostalgic about her passionate affair with the peaceful leader. (56) **Salman Rushdie** Arguing that even writers with bounties on their heads need to stay fit, Kramer is convinced he has spotted the author at the gym. (57)

ENTERTAINMENT

Calvin Klein ads He's no waif, but Kramer, with his "sublime" buttocks, was a hot underwear model for Calvin Klein. (51) **"Phenomenon"** George likens himself to this movie's brilliant and superhuman main character when he suddenly stops obsessing about sex. (135) **"The English Patient"** Elaine loses friends, a boyfriend and a job over her confession that she hates the critically acclaimed movie. (143) **"Home Alone"** Caught! Jerry finds George crying (alone) at the end of the Macaulay Culkin flick. (58) **"Hair"** Elaine reveals that her roommate may have picked up Lyme disease after performing in an outdoor production of this musical. (5) **"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"** Forget those vintage shirts. Kramer becomes a fashion magnet when he borrows the musical's backup coat from George's houseguest, who works on the Broadway show. (122)

I Love Lucy Jerry admits to never having seen an episode of the classic TV series. (9) **Dragnet** Kramer dresses the part of and impersonates Joe Friday from this TV series, as he steals back a statue for Jerry. (11) **Today** Bryant Gumbel can't help mocking Jerry's pirate-like puffy shirt when he appears on the morning show. (63) **The Tonight Show** Jerry appears twice, bombing because his hotel chambermaid accidentally threw away his notes and causing a family rift by insulting Uncle Leo. (40, 119) **Live With Regis & Kathie Lee** Kramer appears to promote his coffee-table book about coffee tables. (82)

PUBLICATIONS

Glamour George succumbs to temptation while flipping through the pages of this women's magazine, and his mother catches him in the act. (49) **Penthouse** In converting to an adults-only business, dentist Tim Whatley offers copies of this magazine in the waiting room. (99) **TV GUIDE** When Elaine takes an issue of "the guide" from George's parents' house, she catches the eye of a guy on the subway, and the ire of Mr. Costanza. (71)

PRODUCTS/SERVICES

MovieFone When Kramer mistakenly receives calls from moviegoers looking for times and places, he begins counseling them on their entertainment options. (112) **Pottery Barn** Kramer goes into a tizzy when this company sends him too many mail-order catalogs. (153) **The Gap** Alert: Babes by the blue jeans! Kramer and Mickey combine shopping with dating when they find chicks at this store. (145)

(Frank) **THE HORROR:** George describes seeing his father's ample chest: "It's like my own personal 'Crying Game.'" **...AND NO PARENTAL ADVISORY NO. 2:** Estelle announces she's going on a date with bra salesman Farkus, over Frank's angry objections: "He only sells them. He doesn't wear them." **RATING: ★★** The episode finely illustrates the *Seinfeldian* propensity for classic vaudevillian situations, with guest star Miller getting great mileage just from his devilishly deviant smile.

THE JIMMY

EPISODE 99

PREMIERED: 03/16/95 **WRITERS:** Gregg Kavet, Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:**

Elaine unknowingly agrees to date third-person-talking, high-jumping Jimmy, and George comes under suspicion by the burglarized Yankees because he sweats all day after a workout. Mel Tormé serenades the Novocain-addled Kramer at a benefit for the mentally challenged. Jerry suspects he was taken advantage of by his dentist, Tim, and assistant, to which Elaine offers little comfort. "So you were violated by two people while you were under the gas," she says. "So what? You're single." **GUEST STARS:** Cranston (Tim), Anthony Starke (Jimmy), Mel Tormé (as himself) **NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT:** Kramer finds George Will attractive but not "all that bright." **THE GEORGE:**

Speaking Jimmy-like, George discovers he can brainwash Yankees owner George Steinbrenner. **RATING:** ★★★★★ This gem sparkles as it hits on all the main players' quirks while giving George a great new avenue to deceive.

THE DOODLE

EPISODE 100

PREMIERED: 04/06/95 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry mistakenly eats a pecan that was spit out by his girlfriend, Shelley. George's neurosis flies into high gear when he finds that a doodle drawn by girlfriend Paula exaggerates his features, then pulls a Jerry when he is grossed out watching her suck on a peach pit he just discarded. (The fruit is courtesy of Kramer, who goes bananas for special peaches available only two weeks out of the year). Elaine loses out on a new job when Jerry's relatives run up a hotel room bill in her name. And Jerry has fleas. **GUEST STARS:** Knight (Newman), Lesser (Uncle Leo), Barney Martin (Morty), Christa Miller (Paula), Liz Sheridan (Helen), Dana Wheeler-Nicholson (Shelley) **NEWMAN THE PEST:** Chunky wrappers under his seat cushions lead Jerry to the source of his infestation: Newman. **LOUNGE LIZARD:** Jerry dubs George the "Velvet Fog" (in homage to Mel Tormé, a guest in the previous episode) for wearing a velvet jogging suit. **RATING:** ★★ This series of half-baked storylines could use some spice.

THE FUSILLI JERRY

EPISODE 101

PREMIERED: 04/27/95 **WRITERS:** Marjorie Gross, Jonathan Gross, Ron Hauge, Charlie Rubin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** This episode deals with things silly, from Puddy to Kramer's statue of a fusilli Jerry (Why fusilli? "Because you're silly," answers Kramer). Jerry is distraught when Elaine dates his mechanic, David Puddy, and tries to put the brakes on it after learning Puddy has stolen his "move,"

i.e., bedroom technique. The ASSMAN cometh as the wrong set of license plates lands on Kramer's bumper, while George's difficulty mastering the "move" elicits a less-than-desired result from girlfriend Nancy. **GUEST STARS:** Marla Sucharetza (Nancy), Patrick Warburton (David Puddy) **SEXUAL MECHANICS:** Jerry's "move" requires a headboard and ends with a swirl or a pinch. **MOMMY DEAREST:** George,

on that special mother-son bond: "You take TV out of this relationship, it is just torture."

RATING: ★★★★★ Kudos to new character

Thanks to Kramer's cravings, a patient on the operating table is left Junior Mint-y fresh in episode 58.

Puddy and making a raucous sexual discussion seem as innocent as macaroni.

THE DIPLOMATS CLUB

EPISODE 102

PREMIERED: 05/04/95 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Guess who's coming to dinner? A stupid remark to his Yankees superior has George scurrying to find an African-American friend, with Jerry's exterminator, Karl (from episode 100), the unsuspecting prey. A smothering manager manages to ruin one of Jerry's gigs and a planned rendezvous with supermodel Bridgett, and Elaine comes under suspicion by Mr. Pitt's estate lawyer, Lenore, after he nearly succumbs to a deadly mix of drugs. **GUEST STARS:** Abercrombie (Pitt), Knight (Newman), Debra Jo Rupp (Katie the manager), Berta Maria Waagford (Bridgett), Ellis E. Williams (Karl), Kim Zimmer (Lenore) **UNFRIENDLY SKIES:** Jerry flies United but gets kicked off the plane after his assistant insults the pilot. **SON OF A GUN:** We learn that Newman once worked—and double-dated—with David Berkowitz, a.k.a. Son of Sam. **RATING:** ★★ Inspired bits abound, but the less-than-stellar freakish pilot plot keeps the episode from taking off.

THE FACE PAINTER

EPISODE 103

PREMIERED: 05/11/95 **WRITERS:** David, Stoller **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine scores tickets to a New Jersey Devils game from a friend and brings Puddy, whose frat-boy face paint sends a priest into a coma. The disaster that is George's love life hits the skids again, this time when he expresses his feelings to girlfriend Siena. Kramer gets into a fight with a monkey (of course), and Jerry attends a funeral. **GUEST STARS:** Pierrino Mascarino (Father Hernandez), Katy Selverstone (Siena), Warburton (Puddy) **DEATH OF A GUEST STAR:** Jerry attends the funeral of cancer faker Gary Fogel, who died in a car accident while adjusting his toupee. **HISTORIC MOMENT:** George says Siena is the first woman to whom he's said, "I love you." He is lying (see episode 6). **RATING:** ★★★★★ The episode reconfirms that love, friendship, gratitude, etc., are prime fodder for *Seinfeld* monkey business.

THE UNDERSTUDY

EPISODE 104

PREMIERED: 05/18/95 **WRITERS:** Gross, Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry's relationship with an understudy suffers a bad break when George hurts the star of the musical, Bette Midler, in a charity softball game and Kramer becomes her personal guardian. Elaine is suspicious that her Korean manicurist, Ruby, is talking about her and recruits Frank Costanza's help. Elaine's talent for long-winded, boorish soliloquies lands her a job after meeting J. Peterman on a night as dark as the underside of an oft-used cauldron. **GUEST STARS:** June Kyoko Lu (Ruby), Bette Midler (as herself), Adelaide Miller (Gennice the understudy), John O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Stiller (Frank) **WAR STORIES:** Frank's foot odor cost him a relationship with a Korean woman. **A KNEE-SLAPPER:** Jerry's girlfriend's debut in "Rochelle, Rochelle: The Musical" takes a tragic Tonya Harding-esque turn: "Look at my shoelace. I can't do it like this. Please let me start it over!" **RATING:** ★★★★★ Elaine's verbal fracas with her manicurist and first foray into the Peterman world are delightful, but the Midler plot doesn't deliver.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING [WITH THE BRO] WAS THAT KRAMER COULD WORK THE HOOKS WITHOUT GETTING TOO EXCITED." —Jerry Stiller (Frank Costanza)

BYE, FOR NOW

BEFORE IT'S ALL OVER, WARM-UP COMEDIAN JEFF BYE TAKES A MINUTE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

There are many fascinating tales of how ordinary people landed their first big break in show business. This isn't one of them. My first job upon arriving in Hollywood in March 1992 was to sit in Jerry Seinfeld's office. That's it.

I would simply sit at his desk in the *Seinfeld* production office every Wednesday night for five hours while the show was taping next door at CBS Studios' Stage 19. The reason for this was that earlier in the year, some money had been stolen from Jerry's desk, so I was hired to keep an eye on things. For this I was paid \$50 per night and allowed to watch as many *Seinfeld* episodes as I wanted. At the time there were only 35, and most people had never even heard of *Seinfeld*. But being alone with a VCR and five hours to kill made me a fan of and an expert on the NBC sitcom.

As the ratings rose, so did my career. I held a variety of jobs in the production department, which allowed me to observe many things behind the scenes. Along the way, I managed to sell a few monologue jokes to Jerry that were used in the show, including a Bozo the Clown riff ("Is the clown designation really necessary? If you have a rubber nose, red hair and size 16 feet, I think Bozo is sufficient. There's no Bozo the District Attorney"). I appeared in four episodes, including "The Caddy," in which I played Elaine's boyfriend in a '70s flashback scene.

Six years later, I still show up for work every Wednesday night for five hours, but now I spend my time in front of the 300-member studio audience, hosting the show. As the *Seinfeld* warm-up comedian, I finally have an outlet for my trivia and anecdotes. For this I am paid more than a thousand bucks a night, and I don't mind telling you, it beats the hell out of my desk job. Here (and at no cost to you) are the answers to some of the questions most frequently asked by the studio audience.

Why is an NBC show filmed at CBS?

Because CBS has no hit shows this season. (Just kidding.) CBS Studio Center is not exclusive to CBS; space is rented to all the networks.

Where do the writers come from?

Most attended Harvard University and worked on such shows as

Letterman, Conan O'Brien and The Simpsons. The majority are younger than 30 years old, and they're all very wealthy.

How much does an episode of *Seinfeld* cost to make?

About \$4 million, and we produce 22 a year. (An average sitcom costs about \$1 million per episode.)

Has Michael Richards ever been hurt doing a stunt?

Michael goes home every week with bumps and bruises. He once dove through Jerry's window with such gusto (trying to catch Jerry's Commando 8 air conditioner) that he nearly broke his ribs. It was my job to drive him to the emergency room to get X-rayed.

What interaction has the show had with the real J. Peterman?

We had to run the script by him to get permission to kill his mother in the episode titled "The Secret Code." Also, he frequently hires John O'Hurley, the actor who portrays him, to appear at openings of his outlet stores.

Have there been jokes in the show that weren't in the original script?

Yes. In "The Junior Mint," Jerry's girlfriend says her name rhymes with a female body part. In the script it was "Cloris," but during the show the audience was asked to guess her name, and a woman said, "Dolores." The writers realized that was funnier.

Has there ever been a heckler in the studio audience?

Yes. Once a female asked Jerry what size bra Shoshanna Lonstein, his girlfriend at the time, wore. He politely told her it was none of her business. The woman persisted until Jerry asked her what size jock she wore. The woman replied, "I don't wear a jock," to which Jerry responded, "Well, you should."

What is the cast of *Seinfeld* really like?

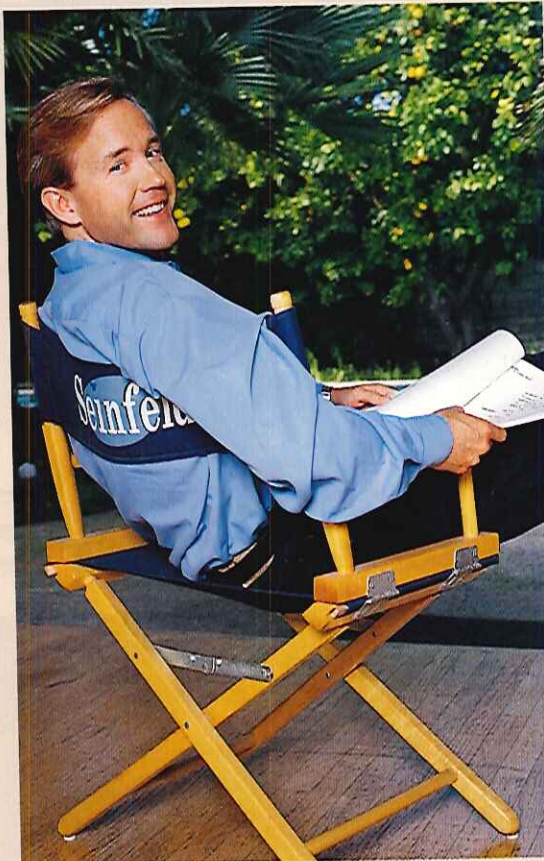
*Generous. For example, for Christmas one year, Michael, Julia, Jason and Jerry bought customized *Seinfeld*-edition mountain bikes for all 100 members of the crew. Total cost: about \$40,000.*

What famous people have come to a taping?

Beau Bridges, Diane Keaton, Chris Rock, Mick Fleetwood, Marla Maples and Randy Travis are just a few (Travis even played guitar and sang during a break). It's my job to meet them and find out how they wish to be introduced to the studio audience, if at all.

Do the cast members hang out after a show?

*In the early days, they used to go to Jerry's Famous Deli in Studio City to unwind, but now their careers leave little time for socializing. However, I think it's obvious that the *Seinfeld* cast members like each other a lot. That kind of chemistry you just can't fake.*





FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
STEPHEN ROOT, *NewsRadio* (EPISODE 126);
BRUCE DAVISON, "LONGTIME COMPANION" (127)



WENDIE MALICK, *Just Shoot Me* (97); ROB SCHNEIDER, *Men Behaving Badly* (121); BRAD GARRETT, *Everybody Loves Raymond* (124)



FRED SAVAGE,
Working (40)

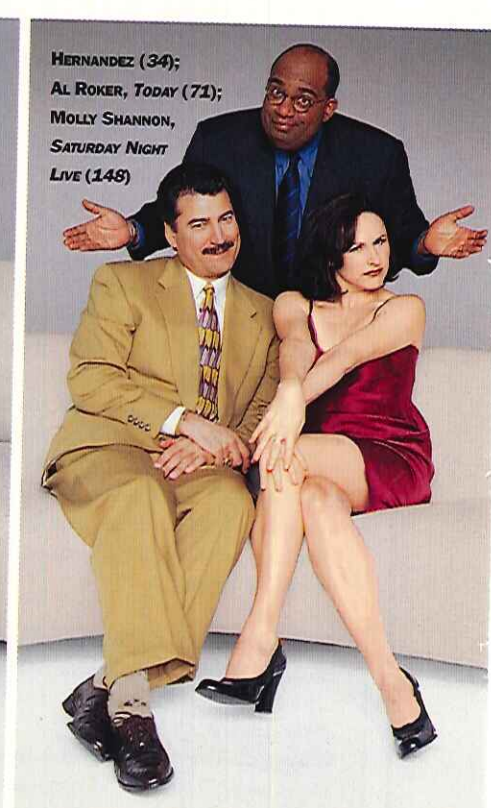
THE STARS SEIN UP



DAVID JAMES ELLIOTT, *JAG* (87); JESSICA HECHT, *The Single Guy* (87, 88)



CHELSEA NOBLE,
Growing Pains (143)



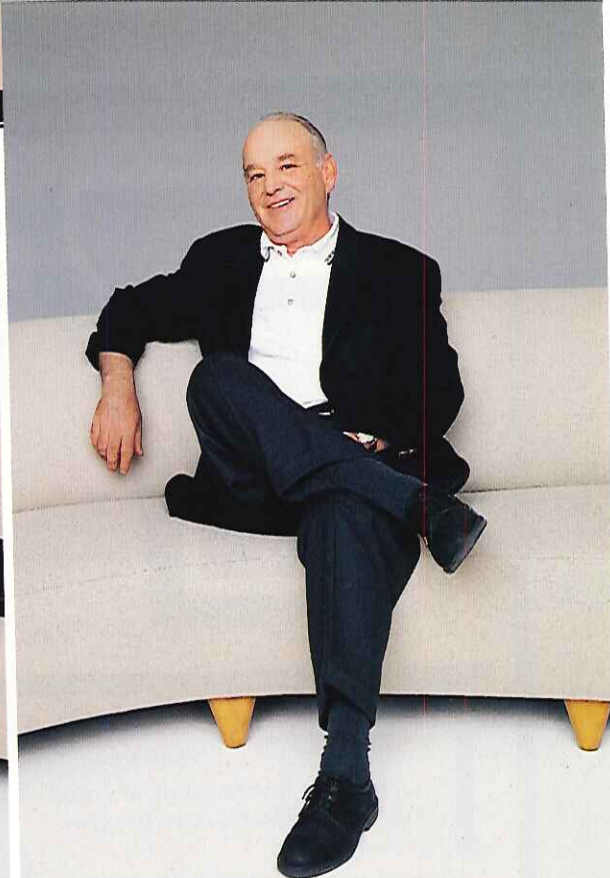
HERNANDEZ (34);
AL ROKER, *Today* (71);
MOLLY SHANNON,
Saturday Night Live (148)



DEDEE PFEIFFER, *CYBILL* (82)



CHRISTA MILLER, *THE DREW CAREY SHOW* (65, 100); DAN CORTESE, *VERONICA'S CLOSET* (73); VOIGHT (90)



BRIAN DOYLE-MURRAY, *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE* (45)

Keith Hernandez may have inhaled as a New York Met, but his nicotine habit snuffed any chance of getting to second base with Elaine. Jon Voight bit the bullet in 'Nam, only to find out he was coming home to bite the hand of Kramer. But while many noble careers were humbled in a single half hour, two famous faces could smile at the news that they had once procreated: Real-life couple Robert Wagner and Jill St. John found a little bundle of joy in bouncing bearded little person Mickey.



VICKI LEWIS, *NEWSRADIO* (91, 92)



WAGNER AND ST. JOHN (145)



KATHY GRIFFIN, *SUDDENLY SUSAN* (120, 161); CORBIN BERNSEN, *L.A. LAW* (40); CAROL KANE, *TAXI* (75)

7

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Is it possible to have too much of a good thing? Is it possible for even *Seinfeld* to go too far?

Questions previously unthinkable came to the fore during this pivotal and controversial season, which for a while was thought to be the show's last. (So began a new tradition: waiting for Jerry and the gang to decide if they'd stopped having fun.) With the show launched into syndication, *Seinfeld* cultists and latecomers could more easily compare the frenetic new episodes with the simpler classics, not always favoring the new variety.

It's worth noting that in the tradition of TV originals such as *Northern Exposure*, which arrived the same summer as *Seinfeld* and was canceled in the spring of 1995, *Seinfeld* is by its nature uneven. This is especially true in the later years, when one brilliant storyline often is obscured by a flimsier tangent.

While this season's hourlong episodes ("The Cadillac" and "The Bottle Deposit") were especially strained, this was also the year of the Soup Nazi, a delectable, dognapping Newman, Elaine's coveted contraceptive sponge (Louis-Dreyfus would win an Emmy) and the masterfully structured episode "The Rye."

Threading through the season was the story of George's misbegotten engagement to Susan. And anyone who thought Jerry mugging an old lady for a loaf of bread in "The Rye" was in questionable taste hadn't seen anything yet. In the still-polarizing season finale, Susan died licking toxic glue off of cheap wedding invitations. The lack of remorse as the foursome headed for coffee—Kramer added insult to fatal injury by referring to Susan as "poor Lily"—rankled many for its misanthropy and tickled others with its audacity.

Behind the scenes, something just as unnerving occurred: Cocreator Larry David, the alter ego of the neurotic George, decided to hang it up for good. He'd had enough.





Keep it Basic

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15 mg "tar," 1.0 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.

THE ENGAGEMENT

E P I S O D E 1 0 5

PREMIERED: 09/21/95 **WRITER:** Larry David
DIRECTOR: Andy Ackerman **STORY:** Another *Seinfeld* romance is torpedoed by triviality when George's latest gal pal reveals her fondness for the phrase "Happy, Pappy?" Jerry and George make a pact to renew old loves, this time acting like adults, but Jerry reneges after a dinner with his ex Melanie. Unaware of this, George pops the question to ex-girlfriend Susan (whose lesbianism "didn't take," he explains). Elaine copes with a different sort of wake-up call: A dog with an annoying nocturnal yap. Enter Kramer and Newman, aspiring dognappers.
GUEST STARS: Wayne Knight (Newman), Athena Massey (Melanie), Heidi Swedberg (Susan) **MR. MANNERS:** Jerry is turned off when Melanie prongs her peas one at a time. **MARRIAGE HELL:** George has to watch Susan's *Mad About You* tape and go to "The Muted Heart," starring Glenn Close and Sally Field. **RATING:** ★★ Jerry and George nail the "are we not men?" theme, but Elaine's canine-induced flip-out has no teeth despite nifty napping.



Yes, George (Alexander) proposes to Susan (Swedberg), but that doesn't mean she's secret-code worthy.

THE POSTPONEMENT

E P I S O D E 1 0 6

PREMIERED: 09/28/95 **WRITER:** David
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Two people have big problems with George's engagement: George and Elaine. He's in a panic; she's bitter that such a loser's getting married and she's not. George takes his troubles to his fiancée, Susan, who cries. Elaine confesses to a rabbi, who blabs—on TV! When Jerry and Kramer go see "Plan 9 From Outer Space," coffee-smuggling Kramer has a nasty accident. At last, Kramer gets a chance to cash in on the fancy-coffee boom he claims to have started by drinking caffè latte in fifth grade: He sues Java World for millions.
GUEST STAR: Bruce Mahler (the rabbi) **FIVE-YEAR PLAN:** Jerry has been waiting to see

"Plan 9 From Outer Space" since Episode 16, when the gang had a bit of a wait at a Chinese restaurant. **JERRY'S JOY OF SEX:** After hearing about George's fight with Susan, Jerry says that at least they got to have passionate sex afterward. George, stricken, says no. Jerry's appalled: "How could you not have make-up sex?" **THOMAS ALVA COSTANZA:** George's big idea: making the rest-room-stall doors at Yankee Stadium go all the way to the floor. **RATING:** ★★ George's premarital agony is a pleasure, but the rabbi schtick gets old quick.

THE MAESTRO

E P I S O D E 1 0 7

PREMIERED: 10/05/95 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Looking for reasons not

to marry Susan, George seizes on her lack of compassion for the security guard who has to stand all day at her uncle's clothing store. Another would-be do-gooder tries to help Kramer with his caffè-latte burns by bringing him some Chinese balm, but the Maestro—as the D-list conductor insists on being called—succeeds too well. The wound heals so quickly that the unnerved Kramer sabotages his Java World lawsuit. When Elaine sees the Maestro, she hears a symphony, but Jerry hears a phony. He's especially irked that the Maestro (a.k.a. Bob) insists there are no more rentals in Tuscany, where he and Elaine are going on vacation. Jerry just knows the Maestro's hitting a false note. **GUEST STARS:** Mark Metcalf (Maestro), Phil Morris (lawyer Jackie Chiles) **GRABBED FROM THE HEADLINES:** Morris does an ace Johnnie Cochran parody (he'll return for future Kramer legal intrigues), and the coffee contretemps nicely skewers the infamous McDonald's hot-lap lawsuit. **A&E MOMENT:** Elaine and the Maestro in an "A Room With a View" takeoff. **RATING:** ★★ Some good moments, but the payoffs are curiously flatte.

THE WINK

E P I S O D E 1 0 8

PREMIERED: 10/12/95 **WRITERS:** Tom Gam-mill, Max Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry's new salad 'n' fruit regimen becomes an unhealthy choice—for everyone. His latest love interest, Elaine's cousin Holly, looks down on meat haters, so Jerry stuffs her lovingly prepared mutton in his pocket. Elaine borrows the coat, and her new boyfriend's dogs nearly turn her into Alpo. Meanwhile, George can't stop winking after Jerry digs into a grapefruit and squirts him in the eye. Thinking that winkin' George has given him the nod, Kramer sells a George Steinbrenner birthday card signed by the Yankees. Kramer gets it back by promising a hospitalized little boy that Yankees outfielder Paul O'Neill will do

"I HAD JUST HAD MY SON, AND WAS NURSING. I SAID TO LARRY [DAVID], 'THIS MAY BE THE ONLY TIME YOU GET ASKED THIS, BUT WHAT SIZE WOULD YOU LIKE THEM?' DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH I NURSED, I COULD MAKE THEM LARGER OR SMALLER. HE TURNED THREE SHADES OF RED AND FINALLY SAID, 'I THINK THEY'RE FINE JUST THE WAY THEY ARE.' "

—Brenda Strong, on playing "braless wonder" Sue Ellen Mischke

heroic deeds. George's tie accidentally gets a co-worker fired, and George is promoted into the job. Now he'll actually have to work. **GUEST STARS:** Paul O'Neill (himself), Stacey Travis (Holly) **VOICE MALE:** Elaine goes out with the guy who calls from her wake-up service (Brian McNamara). **THE RULES:** Is it better to date the blind or the deaf? Jerry chooses deaf, because the blind are going to be untidy: "You're constantly walkin' around with a sponge." George opts for blind: "A good-lookin' blind woman doesn't really know that you're not good enough for her." **RATING: ★★** Kramer wringing the birthday card from a bedridden tyke is a hoot, but Jerry's stealthy food-stashing is an overcooked sitcom ploy.

THE HOT TUB

EPISODE 109

PREMIERED: 10/19/95 **WRITERS:** Gregg Kavet, Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** A long-distance runner from Trinidad-Tobago—who missed the Olympics when he overslept—is staying with Elaine for the New York Marathon, and Jerry worries that she's too cavalier about getting him to the starting line on time. So Jerry takes charge of Jean-Paul's sleeping schedule, but his alarm clock fails after Kramer's 16,000-BTU heat pump for his new hot tub blows out the building's fuses. Jean-Paul still manages to make the race, and even leads with a mile left. Too bad Kramer turns up to cheer him on. **GUEST STAR:** Jeremiah Birkett (Jean-Paul) **YANKEE DIPPERS:** The two Georges, Costanza and Steinbrenner, take a hot-tub soak together. **GEORGE'S JOB TIPS:** "When you look annoyed all the time, people think you're busy." **RATING: ★★** Jerry frets wonderfully on behalf of Jean-Paul, but the alarm-clock theme in back-to-back shows suggests the production team is suffering from sleep deprivation.

THE SOUP NAZI

EPISODE 110

PREMIERED: 11/02/95 **WRITER:** Spike Feresten **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** In their quest for knee-bucklingly good soup, Jerry, George & Co. want to bend to the will of the abuse-ladling Soup Nazi, but their

basic instincts keep getting in the way. George whines when he doesn't get free bread. ("No soup for you!" the S.N. barks.) Elaine's overly familiar tone gets her the heave-ho. When Jerry brings along his gloppily affectionate girlfriend, Sheila ("Schmoopie!"), she gets tossed, then tries to make Jerry leave too. Torn between love and bisque, Jerry finally says, "Do I know you?" Only Kramer bonds with souperman, who offers up a spare armoire when Cosmo tells him the

sad tale of a friend whose antique was stolen. Little does the Soup Nazi know that the armoire is for Elaine, now his revenge-plotting enemy, or that his priceless recipes are inside. **GUEST STARS:** John Paragon (Ray),

Episode 31 gives us Jerry's musical Pez prank, the Beach and the immortal "I have no hand."

Swedberg (Susan), Larry Thomas (Soup Nazi), Yul Vazquez (Bob), Alexandra Wentworth (Sheila) **AMERICA'S MOST WANTED?** Meet Bob and Ray, representatives of a new criminal class: gay couples with vicious street-smarts and refined taste in period furniture.

THE FUGITIVE: Where does the Soup Nazi flee after Elaine reveals his recipe secrets? Argentina. **RATING: ★★★★★** As perfect as you-know-who's mulligatawny.

THE SECRET CODE

EPISODE 111

PREMIERED: 11/09/95 **WRITERS:** Alec Berg, Jeff Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George refuses to reveal his secret ATM code to his fiancée, Susan, but he's dying to tell somebody. Jerry's just dying to walk normally: His foot keeps falling asleep, which nearly cripples his gig doing ads for Leapin' Larry's appliance store because the one-legged Larry thinks limpin' Jerry is ridiculing him. The store is where Kramer bought a radio scanner, which now has him obsessed with the idea that fire engines don't take shortcuts. Elaine has a different obsession: the loser

Fred, who doesn't remember meeting her. **GUEST STARS:** Lewis Arquette (Leapin' Larry), Fred Stoller (Fred Yerkes), Swedberg (Susan) **DAILY PLANET REPORT:** Jerry's ATM code is "Jor-El," Superman's father on Krypton. **GRASSY-KNOLL MOMENT:** Elaine didn't even make an impression on Fred when she told him that her uncle worked in Dallas at the book depository with Lee Harvey Oswald. **RATING: ★★** Plot lines exhilaratingly entwine, bookended by two delicious George moments: parrying Susan's request for his ATM code and debating whether to reveal the code or let a man die.

THE POOL GUY

EPISODE 112

PREMIERED: 11/16/95 **WRITER:** David Mandel **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Friends. Jerry's got a new one—Ramon, the recently fired pool guy from his health club—that he doesn't want. Elaine's got a new one, George's fiancée, Susan, that he doesn't want her to have ("Worlds are colliding!"). Kramer has too many of the female variety, and doesn't want them calling all the time. Jerry ditches Ramon. George is in agony that "Independent George" will get mowed down when "Relationship George" invades his turf. Kramer's new number is one digit away from MovieFone's 555-FILM, and he happily discovers a mission in life: getting people to the show on time. **GUEST STARS:** Carlos Jacott (Ramon), Swedberg (Susan) **KNOCK, KNOCK:** The real MovieFone guy shows up at Kramer's apartment, ticked off about the new competition. "Please select the number of seconds you'd like to wait before I break down the door." **SELF-CENSORSH—** When Jerry tells Elaine that George isn't going to like her friendship with Susan, Elaine replies, "Yeah, I don't really give a sh—," chopping off the line with a slammed bathroom door. **RATING: ★★** Cosmo's movie-phone is a Kramer Keeper, and the war of the George worlds is classic, but the pool-guy bit belly-flops.

THE SPONGE

EPISODE 113

PREMIERED: 12/7/95 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Signing up to sponsor Kramer in the AIDS Walk, Jerry notices the name and—bingo!—the unlisted number of a girl he's interested in. He calls Lena and they go out, but she's so good (helps shut-ins, volunteers at a soup kitchen) that he's put off. "You can't have sex



THE J. SEINFELD CATALOG

There once was a man called J. Seinfeld—Jerry, to his compadres—who leapt from crag to crag on the mountainous minutiae of everyday life. As he and his trusted cohorts trekked the wilds of New York City for nine long years, they occasionally stumbled upon wonderfully inventive treasures. Gadgets. Garments. Gear that makes this hard life just a little bit easier. We present them here in this one-time-only catalog, an homage to J. Peterman, the real-life mail-order guru and the *Seinfeld* character played with such manly panache by John O'Hurley. A tip of the old urban sombrero to you, amigos.



The Queens Shield of Armor

Don't let a slight sag up front mask the fact that the heart of a stallion beats underneath.

Our Manssiere (call it the Bro, if you like) robustly signals your inner strength to the world. With this manly breastplate,

you're ready for battle. But as you proudly puff out your chest, whisper thanks to Cosmo K. and his inspiration, a Mr. Frank Costanza of Queens. (episode 98)



Non-Binding Agreement

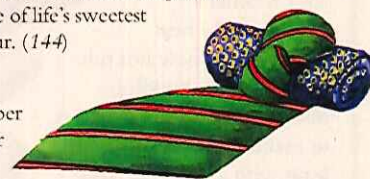
"Why be tied down," asked a rebel named Morty Seinfeld, "when you can break free of the chains that shackle you?" Morty's beltless trench coat, "The Executive," means easy breathing. Liberate thyself, ye slave to fashion! (7, 79)



Good Night, Sweet Prince

A chap who worked for the New York Yankees designed the prototype for this desk. The cunningly concealed alarm clock lets you take snoozes worthy of the Babe without worrying that bosses will sneak up on your lair to remind you of missed meetings. You'll awaken, refreshed, just in

time to savor some of life's sweetest moments. Like happy hour. (144)



Save Your Neck

Remember the drop of marinara on your power tie, the stain that helped put the kibosh on your latest financial conquest? We'll let you in on a secret: Happens to the best of us. An even better secret: Our Roll-Out Tie Dispenser. With one discreet tug, you can replace that disgrace with a pristine swath of fabric. (Note from our Mr. Kramer: He'll accept a commission on your next market coup. Cash only.) (5)

with someone you admire!" Admiration isn't the problem for Elaine: She wants to have sex with her new boyfriend, Billy, but reconsiders upon hearing that her cherished birth-control method, the Today sponge, has been taken off the market. Is he sponge-worthy? The question among Kramer's fellow AIDS fund-raisers is whether he's walk-worthy—he refuses to be bullied into wearing a red ribbon. Things turn ugly when Bob and Cedric (formerly Ray), who terrorized Kramer in the Soup Nazi episode, take up the ribbon cause.

GUEST STARS: Jennifer Guthrie (Lena), Paragon (Cedric), Scott Patterson (Billy), Vazquez (Bob) **HINTS FROM MR. SLIM & TRIM:** All-Tempe-Cheer detergent does a great job on shirts! Keep the same waist size you had in college by turning the 32" on your jeans label into a 31"! **THE SECRET OF SAFE SEX:** By the time George succeeds in opening a condom, he doesn't need one anymore. **RATING:** ★★ ★ Elaine's sponge-hoarding and confronting AIDS-ribbon bullying are both funny and brave, but the Saint Lena motif is far from heavenly.

THE GUM

E P I S O D E 1 1 4

PREMIERED: 12/14/95 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** The gang once again proves that mental health is overrated. Kramer takes under his wing Lloyd Braun, a recovering ex-Elaine boyfriend who suffered a nervous breakdown. At a movie theater being restored by Kramer, Elaine evades Lloyd by telling him that Jerry forgot his glasses. To keep the lie alive, Jerry dons disorienting lenses and makes, well, a spectacle of

Fresh as a Seagull

Inhale the frothy, pungent aroma of summer sand and surf, with its magnificent undertones of tanning oil and frankfurters. Thanks to the ingenious Mr. Kramer, we bring you the Beach, an aroma for the summer lover—the man who wants the world to know he's the master of the volleyball court, even in the dead of winter. We hail you, and smell you, bronze god. (31, 51)

**Hats Off to You, Muchacha!**

A young lady we know, a Señorita Benes, beseeched us to fashion a topper that would provide shelter in a world plagued with restless wildlife and falling debris. Always happy to indulge a lady friend, we crafted this rugged Urban Sombrero for those days when you're too far from cool mountain zephyrs to indulge the urge to let your mane flow in the breeze. (127)

**An Idea With Legs**

The Smiths have coffee-table books about art. (How banal.) The Joneses have coffee table books about coffee. (They think they're being clever.) Do them one better with this tome on—what else?—coffee tables, brought to you by our most prolific inventor, a Mr. Kramer of Manhattan. (71, 82)

himself. And he pays a stiff price for Elaine's aversion to Lloyd: To get rid of the guy, he buys him Chinese gum, blindly using a \$100 bill. Meanwhile, Elaine keeps inadvertently flashing her boobs at the attentive Lloyd. But it's George's mental state that's in question when he meets an old high school chum, Deena. She tells George he displays signs of a mental breakdown, and his increasingly erratic behavior confirms what we already knew.

GUEST STARS: Cocreator Larry David is uncredited as a guy who sells gum to George. Mary Jo Keenan (Deena), Matt

McCoy (Lloyd Braun) **SEIN POSTS:** A rare exhibition of Jerry doing physical comedy. **RATING:** ★★ Even by *Seinfeld* standards, this gummed-up plot is tough to swallow.

THE RYE

EPISODE 115

PREMIERED: 01/04/96 **WRITER:** Carol Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine is dating "sponge-worthy" jazz saxophonist John Germaine, but he "doesn't like to do everything." Unfortunately, he expands his repertoire to include the unspoken talent before an important gig and shatters his career. A second unuttered word wafts after Kramer feeds jumbo cans of Beef-A-Reeno to the horse that a buggy-driving friend has loaned him. Future in-laws the Costanzas and Rosses go to war over a marble rye that the stuffy Rosses decline to serve and the scruffy Costanzas "degift." Kramer tries to save the day by offering the Rosses a romantic ride in his hansom cab, but that hardly clears the air. **GUEST STARS:** Frances Bay (Bread Lady), Warren Frost (Mr. Ross), Grace Zabriskie (Mrs. Ross; all three were in *Twin Peaks*), Jeff Yagher (John Germaine) **MAYBE HE WAS ONCE DROPPED ON HIS HEAD:** George enlists Jerry to catch a new rye, which he can only do by mugging the old lady who nabs the last loaf at Schnitzer's Bakery. Jerry reenounters the woman in episode 118. **RATING:** ★★ For deft handling of junior high topics.

THE CADDY

EPISODE 116

PREMIERED: 01/25/96 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George locks his keys in his car at work and waits for a free visit from a locksmith, but his bosses conclude he's working like a demon. (Later, though, they find what appear to be bloodstains and assume he's dead.) Elaine tries to take revenge on high school nemesis Sue Ellen Mischke, "the braless wonder" and Oh-Henry! candy-bar heiress, by buying her a bra. But Kramer and Jerry smash George's car when they see Sue Ellen wearing the bra as a top in public. Handling their court case against Sue Ellen, lawyer Jackie Chiles lifts up the evidence and yells, "If the bra fits, you must acquit!" **GUEST STARS:** Morris (Jackie Chiles), Brenda Strong (Sue Ellen Mischke) **FASHION FORWARD:** Sue Ellen's innerwear as outerwear becomes a J. Peterman catalog offering. **RATING:** ★★ A clever O.J. parody that acquits itself very well.

THE SEVEN

EPISODE 117

PREMIERED: 02/01/96 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Life is annoying! A frustrated Jerry likens new gal pal Christie to a superhero because she only wears one outfit: a black and white dress. George and Susan argue about baby names with Susan's cousins, Ken and Carrie, who later poach George's favorite name (Seven, after idol Mickey Mantle's jersey number) for their child. Elaine injures her neck getting a girl's bike down from a store wall. In agony, she promises her bike to anyone who can fix her neck but reneges when Kramer comes to her rescue. Newman arbitrates the Elaine-Kramer bike dispute with a Solomonic decision. **GUEST STARS:** Ken Hudson Campbell (Ken), Lisa Deanne (Christie), Shannon Holt (Carrie), Knight (Newman) **NAME THAT TYKE:** George also likes the unisex name Soda for a child. **CREATIVE ACCOUNTING:** Kramer devises an inventory system to track his mooching from Jerry, then leaves half-eaten stuff around to avoid paying the full tab. **RATING:** ★★ The sub-par plot is undermined by Newman's too long, over-the-top Solomonic bit.

THE CADILLACEPISODE 118
ONE HOUR

PREMIERED: 02/08/96 **WRITERS:** David, Jerry **Seinfeld** **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry proves again that no good deed goes unpunished. After returning from a lucrative gig, he buys his father a Cadillac, which he takes to Florida. The vehicle leads to petty jealousies and Nixonian impeachment proceedings against condo association president Morty Seinfeld. The swing vote? Mrs. Choate, the lady Jerry mugged for her rye bread three episodes back. George finagles a date with actress Marisa Tomei, who ends up slugging him when he admits he's "sort of" engaged. His fiancée, Susan, suspects he's having an affair with Elaine, but she's busy being fascinated by the newly flush Jerry. Back in Florida, Morty and Helen leave their community in disgrace in a scene evoking Nixon's exit from the White House. **GUEST STARS:** Bay (Bread Lady), Barney Martin (Morty), Liz Sheridan (Helen), Marisa Tomei (as herself) **WELCOME BACK:** The all-purpose name Art Vandelay returns as the fictitious boyfriend George creates for Elaine to defuse Susan's jealousy. **RATING:** ★★ The date with Tomei and riffs on Florida retirees are sharp, but the return of the Bread Lady is loaf-out-loud funny.

THE SHOWER HEAD

EPISODE 119

PREMIERED: 02/15/96 **WRITERS:** Mehlman, Marjorie Gross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** His exiled parents move into Uncle Leo's apartment, and Jerry suffers separation anxiety: He's nervous when he can't maintain the 1,200-mile Florida-to-New York "buffer zone." Helen and Morty Seinfeld try to create their own comfort area by convincing the Costanzas not to live anywhere near them. Elaine unhappily stays put—and loses her job—when she's disqualified from a J. Peterman

PROSS DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Susan is convinced that Jerry and Sally, her college roommate from Memphis, will hit it off. Yeah, right. Instead of endearing herself, Sally brings Jerry the wrong barbecue sauce from the South. If he can't go on *Charles Grodin* carrying a bottle with a label that looks like the talk-show host, then he has "nothin'." Jerry complains. He copes by planning on using a doll that looks like Estelle Costanza, but Sally blows that one, too. Elaine and Kramer commit their own gaffes by spilling food

on a four-course. Kramer's experiments with "Da Vinci sleep" result in some rude awakenings. Jerry hopes to join the Friars Club, but his prospective membership hangs on missing threads: a club jacket he borrowed. Elaine is put out when J. Peterman hires the deaf Bob Grossberg and then dumps extra work on her because Bob never hears assignments. She thinks the deaf thing is an act. **GUEST STARS:** O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Rob Schneider (Bob), Samantha Smith (Hallie), Swedberg (Susan) **SMALL BUSINESS MINISTRATIONS:** Kramer wants to open a restaurant that serves only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches called

PB&J's. **IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SHOW ABOUT NOTHING!** Prospective spouses George and Susan, with little to say to each other, discuss his shoelaces. **RATING:** ★ Would persnickety Jerry really forget to return a jacket? And the deaf jokes make you wish you were hard of hearing.



When Thomas auditioned for the Soup Nazi role, "Jerry Seinfeld was cracking up. That was the greatest feeling ever, because I'm acting, but in the back of my head, there's this little voice going, 'You're making Jerry Seinfeld laugh.'"

trip to Africa after flunking a drug test. (Her undoing: poppy-seed muffins.) Elaine is reinstated after she borrows a urine sample. Meanwhile, Newman and Kramer replace legally mandated low-flow showerheads with black-market blasters. **GUEST STARS:** Estelle Harris (Estelle), Knight (Newman), Jay Leno (as himself), Len Lesser (Uncle Leo), Martin (Morty), John O'Hurley (J. Peterman) Sheridan (Helen), Jerry Stiller (Frank) **BEDSIDE MANNERS:** As Elaine's cousin Katie lies ill in the hospital, George harasses her for Marisa Tomei's phone number. **SEIN POSTS:** On his second *Tonight Show* appearance, Jerry manages to insult Uncle Leo for a change. **RATING:** ★★★ Episodes with the 'rents bring out the full glory of Jerry's and George's neuroses.

THE DOLL

EPISODE 120

PREMIERED: 02/22/96 **WRITERS:** Gammill,

on the Maestro (Elaine) and ruining his baton (Kramer). Even Estelle missteps: She freaks out when she walks in on her husband, Kramer and the Maestro playing pool with their pants off in George's cramped former bedroom. **GUEST STARS:** Kathy Griffin (Sally Weaver), Harris (Estelle), Metcalf (Maestro) **HELLO, DOLLIE!** George's make-believe mom, actress Estelle Harris, has kept the doll, although she thinks the sides of its face are flatter than hers. **RATING:** ★ Elaine's lament to Jerry, "Why don't you write some new material?" speaks for an episode that's pretty much got nothin'.

THE FRIARS CLUB

EPISODE 121

PREMIERED: 03/07/96 **WRITER:** Mandel

DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** George is ecstatic over a three-month wedding delay. He plays matchmaker for Jerry and Susan's friend Hallie, hoping for a perma-

plus his borrowed pink Cadillac, gets Super-Fly Cosmo busted for pimping when he gets into a spat with a hooker who was sleeping in the car. **GUEST STARS:** Patrick Bristow (Wig Master), Harry Van Gorkum (Craig), Gina Mastrogiacomio (Prostitute) **INVISIBLE MAN:** Jerry's male ego is bruised when Elaine and then the flamboyant wig master are asked out while he's right by them. **RATING:** ★★ Nifty plotting, but enough already with coats, cars and parking.

THE CALZONE

EPISODE 123

PREMIERED: 04/25/96 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer

DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** George shares his eggplant calzone with Steinbrenner, who becomes addicted. But George's boss-bonding is imperiled when he's banned from the pizzeria for stealing tips. Jerry cashes in on his beautiful girlfriend Nicki's ability to use her looks to get

"A LOT OF PEOPLE COULDN'T BELIEVE THEY KILLED ME. SOME THOUGHT IT WAS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT. I THINK IT'S CRUEL AND UNUSUAL COMEDY. WHAT A GREAT WAY TO GO."

—Heidi Swedberg, on licking her last envelope as Susan Biddle Ross

anything she wants, including tickets for a sold-out movie. Elaine goes out with Todd Gack, who refuses to admit they are "dating" despite taking her to dinner with his parents. This "dating loophole" allows him to avoid rejection. When Todd sells Jerry some Peruvian "Cuban" cigars, Jerry sends Nicki to get his money back. She and Todd hit it off, and the two decide to dump Jerry and Elaine. They deserve each other. **GUEST STARS:** Peter Allas (Pizzeria Guy), John D'Aquino (Todd), Danette Tays (Nicki) **HEAT AND DUST:** Kramer discovers the joy of prewarmed clothes but torches them in the pizzeria's oven. **RATING: ★★★** Crammed with quintessential *Seinfeld* themes such as George's cheapness, Jerry's self-absorption, Elaine's dating disasters and Kramer's obsessions.

THE BOTTLE DEPOSIT

EPISODE 124
(ONE HOUR)

PREMIERED: 05/02/96 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** J. Peterman authorizes Elaine to bid up to \$10,000 for JFK's golf clubs at an auction of President Kennedy's belongings (an allusion to the Jackie O. frenzy), but Elaine tries to outbid high school nemesis Sue Ellen Mischke (seen in episode 116) and ends up spending \$20,000. Elaine leaves the clubs in Jerry's car, but then Jerry's obsessive mechanic, Tony, abducts the vehicle because Jerry doesn't baby it properly. Luckily, Kramer and Newman, on their way to Michigan to get the deposits on a postal truck full of soda bottles, spot Jerry's car in Ohio. They give chase as Tony heaves JFK's clubs at them. **GUEST STARS:** Brad Garrett (Tony), Knight (Newman), O'Hurley (J. Peterman) Strong (Sue Ellen) **ST. ELSEWHERE:** Steinbrenner mistakenly commits George to a mental hospital. **RATING: ★** As usual, the script suffers when the characters leave the Big Apple.

THE WAIT OUT

EPISODE 125

PREMIERED: 05/09/96 **WRITERS:** Mehlman, Matt Selman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine and Jerry each have been waiting out David and Beth's marriage, waiting for a chance to date the newly datable, so when George utters a "folksy" remark that may have caused their breakup, Elaine and Jerry stop him from apologizing. Later, when David and Elaine, on a date, run into George and his fiancée, Susan, David nastily pays George back. George gleefully thinks Susan will dump him now, but no such luck. Jerry and Elaine are luckless, too: Beth and David reunite. **GUEST STARS:** Cary Elwes (David); Debra Messing (Beth), Swedberg (Susan) **THAT CALVIN KLEIN BODY:** Kramer buys a pair of jeans in his old size and can barely walk or move. **RATING: ★★** Unfunny shallowness from Elaine and Jerry, but the Kramer tight-pants subplot is side-splitting.

THE INVITATIONS

EPISODE 126

PREMIERED: 05/16/96 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Is cheapness a fatal flaw?

Ask Susan. George is saved from his dreaded nuptials after he insists his fiancée buy the least expensive wedding-invitation envelopes. After licking their toxic glue, Susan collapses and ends up at the big altar in the sky. Just as George eludes the Grim Uniter, Jerry falls in love. Contemplating old age with Kramer, Jerry meets Jeannie Steinman. She has his initials, loves cereal and Superman, and enjoys riffing on subjects like brunch and shirt collars. Jerry thinks he's in love ("Now I know what I've been waiting for all these years: myself.") and proposes. Then he comes to his senses. Jeannie is too much like him and, as he suddenly remembers, "I hate myself." **GUEST STARS:** Janeane Garofalo (Jeannie), writer-producer Carol Leifer as a bank employee, Swedberg (Susan). The real George Steinbrenner shot some scenes that were later edited out. **COMEBACK KID:** George quickly recovers from his "grief" and tries hitting on Marisa Tomei again, to no avail. **RATING: ★★★★★** The female Jerry and schmaltzy love-scene parody are inspired, as is the reversal of George's and Jerry's marital status. As for Susan's controversial demise: It gives you either a belly laugh or bellyache.



Before Newman (Knight) finally emerged on-camera, his voice was provided by co-creator David.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH...

Kramer

Rubber-faced and amoeba-limbed Cosmo Kramer leads a charmed existence. Free of the angst that riddles Jerry, George and Elaine, Kramer speaks freely and follows his whims and usually lands on his feet. He'll do just about anything, so long as the doing doesn't involve working a conventional job or buying his own groceries.

Blessed with the "kavorka," an inexplicable animal magnetism, the high-haired Kramer is an unlikely "chick magnet" who attracts women from nuns to prostitutes to librarians to supermodels. "I drive them to lesbianism," George notes ruefully. "He brings them back." Money rains down on him, usually from unlikely sources such as modeling Calvin Klein underwear or getting a film deal out of a coffee-table book that folds into a coffee table.

As George observes when Kramer goes off to baseball fantasy camp, Kramer's real life is everyone's fantasy: "People should plunk down \$2,000 to live like him for a week. Do nothing, fall ass backwards into money, mooch food...have sex without dating." Only innocent bystanders fall prey to Kramer's wacky genius. Good karma? "No, that's Kramer!" says his biggest enabler, Jerry, whenever Cosmo-induced chaos reigns.

NICKNAMES: The K-Man, Assman

THE EARLY YEARS: At 17, he left home and jumped on a steamship bound for Sweden. Was once a compulsive gambler. Now estranged from his mother, Babs Kramer, an alcoholic who worked as a bathroom matron.

WHAT HE SEES IN THE MIRROR: An exceedingly handsome man

WHAT OTHERS SPOT: "A hipster dufus," although Calvin Klein execs admire his physique, especially his "sublime buttocks."

TRADEMARK MOVE I: "A huge pop-in guy" (Jerry's description), he arrives via aggressive slide (or stumble) into Jerry's apartment.

TRADEMARK MOVE II: The full-body X-treme double-take

TRADEMARK MOVE III: Taking food out of Jerry's fridge, then complaining about it

FAVORITE EXPRESSIONS: The all-purpose "giddy-up!"; "do me a solid," a big favor.

PSEUDONYMS: Martin or Peter Van Nostrand

WHAT HE'D NAME A CHILD: Isosceles

INVENTIONS: Fictitious corporation Kramerica Industries, which qualified for an NYU intern; the Bro; the Beach; a sand-filled mattress; coffee-table coffee table book; etc.

UNFORTUNATE EXPERIMENTS: His attempt at Da Vinci sleep—20 minutes every three hours—nearly gets him killed when he nods off during sex with a mob-connected woman. His use of butter as an aftershave gets him fried—literally—when he sunbathes on the roof.

CAREER HIGH POINTS: Underwear model for Calvin Klein; bagel maker; ball boy at U.S. Open; actor (he had one line in a Woody Allen movie—

"These pretzels are making me thirsty"—but was fired); serial killer (a case of mistaken identity)

SEXUAL PECCADILLOES: Likes to be on the bottom during sex; believes "nothing's sexier than a woman behind the wheel of a semi."

LONGEST-LASTING RELATIONSHIP:

Probably with Newman

A FEW OF HIS FAVORITE THINGS: Cigars,

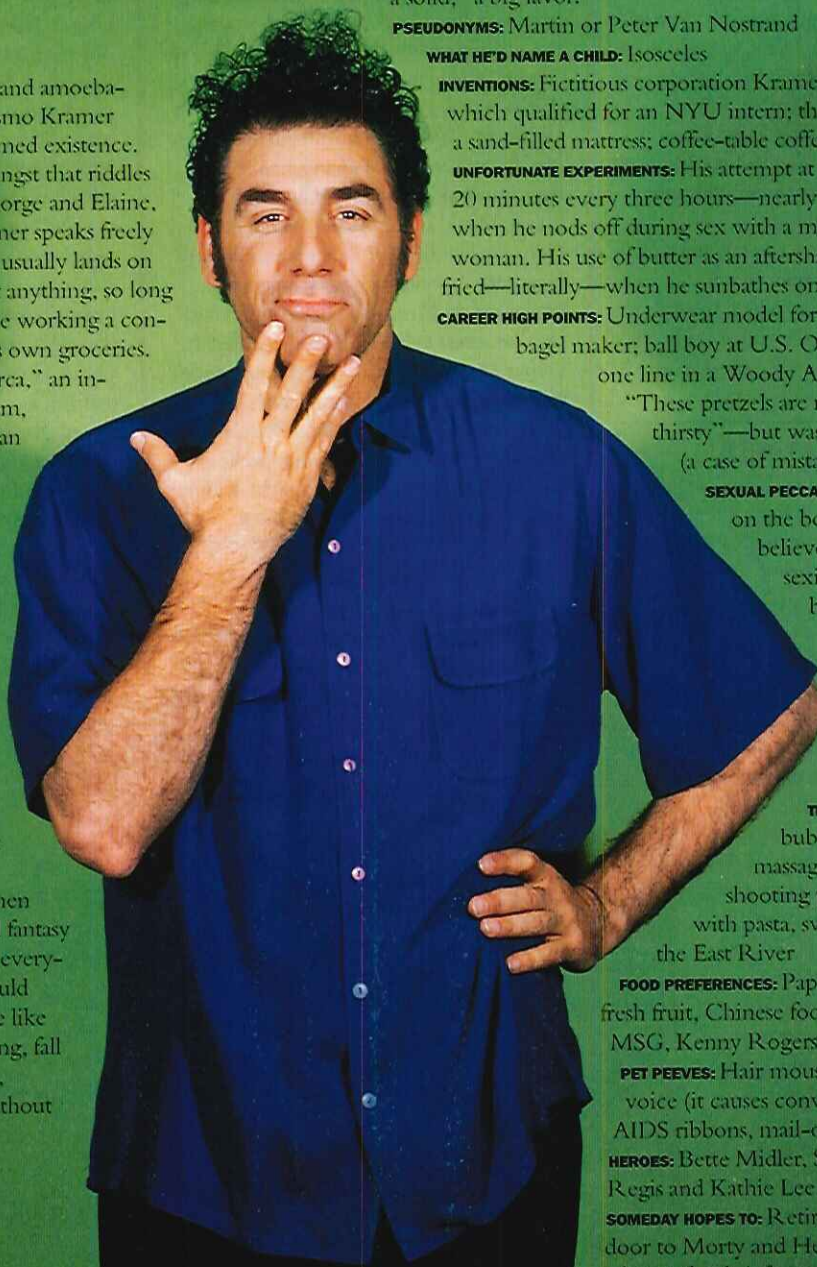
bubble baths, opera, massage, golf, karate, shooting pool, sculpting with pasta, swimming in the East River

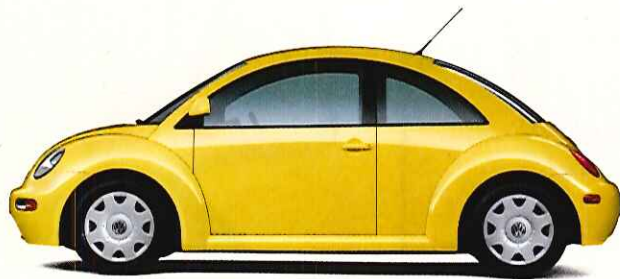
FOOD PREFERENCES: Papaya King hot dogs, fresh fruit, Chinese food with extra MSG, Kenny Rogers Roasters

PET PEEVES: Hair mousse, Mary Hart's voice (it causes convulsions), wallets, AIDS ribbons, mail-order catalogs

HEROES: Bette Midler, Salman Rushdie, Regis and Kathie Lee, Murphy Brown

SOMEDAY HOPES TO: Retire in Florida next door to Morty and Helen Seinfeld, a dream that briefly comes true in the ninth season. But really, what is there to retire from?





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A new season, a new cultural watershed—one good yada deserves another—but the keepsakes from this batch of episodes are fewer and farther between as the show continues on a zany track to all-out surreality. Although sometimes as jarring as the spastic dance that Elaine will never be able to live down, *Seinfeld* in its eighth season still manages to hit creative highs other shows merely dream about.

It doesn't get better than "The Yada Yada," in which verbal shorthand is used to gloss over a variety of sins and a dentist's conversion to Judaism is

seen by Jerry as a sinister bid for "total joke-telling immunity."

And consider "The Bizarro Jerry," an instant classic that aired within the first month of the season, applying the Superman concept of mirror-image opposites to the controversy that lingered after last season's cruel fiancée-killing finale. For all those who had wondered what life would be like if the gang curbed their mean-spirited impulses, here was a group of sedate nice guys who never rocked the boat.

Who needs them? Not even Elaine, who earlier in the episode had wailed to Jerry, "I can't spend the rest of my life coming into this stinking apartment every 10 minutes to pore over the excruciating minutiae of every single daily event." Jerry gave the correct response: "Why not?"

Why not, indeed. The show was by now such an ingrained habit for viewers that even as naysayers carped that it had lost something in the wake of Larry David's departure, awards were still bestowed (Michael Richards won his third Emmy), and ratings continued to soar on Thursdays and for the nightly repeats in syndication.

Anyone doubting the show's cultural impact need look no further than the reality behind Kramer's giddy Peterman Reality Tour, which was inspired by the real-life New York City tourist attraction run by Kenny Kramer. Not for the faint of heart, obviously.



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THE FOUNDATION

EPISODE 127

PREMIERED: 09/19/96 **WRITERS:** Alec Berg, Jeff Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Andy Ackerman **STORY:** George pays his final respects to Susan, then buries the grieving process. "Three long months," he notes ruefully. "Summer months, too. Anybody could grieve in January." But who knew that Susan was worth millions? Her parents rope George into sitting on the board of a foundation created in her memory. Kramer studies karate, and Elaine funnels her energy into running the J. Peterman catalog while her boss recovers from burnout in Burma. Jerry briefly reunites with Dolores/Mulva, whose body parts still aren't rhyming with any of his. **GUEST STARS:** Bruce Davison (Wyck the foundation president), Jancane Garofalo (Jerry's ex-gal pal Jeannie), John O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Susan Walters (Dolores) **SEIN POSTS:** The first episode sans Larry David adds physical comedy (Kramer's karate montage) and dumps Jerry's traditional stand-up comedy opener. **THE GIFT OF GARB:** Elaine fashions a J. Peterman classic: the Urban Sombrero. **RATING:** ★★ It's a kick to watch Kramer work his mojo on a dojo full of kids, but boss Elaine marks the start of her decline from delightfully neurotic to annoyingly shrill.

THE SOUL MATE

EPISODE 128

PREMIERED: 09/26/96 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Everyone's trying to outguess everyone else. George is convinced that Wyck, the foundation head, thinks he killed Susan and that Wyck is plotting to prove it. Elaine meets a guy named Kevin, who shares her feeling that having kids is overrated. Kramer enlists Cyrano-like help from a suddenly poetical Newman while wooing Jerry's girlfriend, Pam, who also doesn't want children. When Elaine tells the vasectomized Kevin that she might want a family after all, he heads to a clinic to get his operation reversed and runs into guys seeking snips: Jerry (for Pam), Newman (for Elaine) and Kramer (also for Pam). Ouch. **GUEST STARS:** Davison (Wyck), Tim DeKay (Kevin), Wayne Knight (Newman), Kim Myers (Pam) **TRESS FRACTURE:** Elaine starts the show with her trademark curly coif, but by the end, she has

THE LYIN' KING

George's credo: "It's not a lie if you believe it." Trouble is, too often other people don't. Still, you've got to hand it to the guy: He's got imagination and unmatched moxie. (When pal Gary confesses to a fib, George responds, "Just one? I'm living, like, 20.") Here are the top 10 efforts from *Seinfeld's* master of fantasy.

- 10. Crime Story** Turned on by conjugal visits with his jailbird gal, George tells the warden she'll return to a life of crime if paroled. (episode 137)
- 9. Racial Blur** George didn't cause the damage to his dad's car—it was that driver yelling racial epithets from his swastika-covered automobile. (60)
- 8. Whale of a Tale** A tag-team effort: Jerry helps hook George up with college buddy Diane by



telling her that George is now a marine biologist. And George can walk the walk: He dislodges a golf ball from a whale's blow hole. (75)

- 7. Time to Confess** George steals his girlfriend's alarm clock, then hides it in a paper bag. He claims it's a sandwich. Then the alarm goes off. (134)

- 6. White Lie** George makes up a boyhood pal, Whitey Fisk, his "summer Jerry," who supposedly snuck him in to see "Last Tango in Paris." To this day, he hasn't seen the Brando movie. (153)

- 5. Dead Wrong** After a death in his girlfriend's family, George needs a death-certificate copy to get the bereavement-rate plane fare. He tells a doctor that he's crafting a "scrapbook" for Betsy. (57)

- 4. Sex, Lies and Videotape** George tries to get out of a relationship by claiming he's gay. That fails, so he tells her he's porn star Buck Naked. (55)

- 3. Pants on Fire** Smoke pours from an ATM center, but George, to protect his secret code, tells J. Peterman he can't save the man trapped inside because he isn't carrying his ATM card. (111)

- 2. Artful Dodger** George pulls out trusty pseudonym Art Vandelay and a fake job whenever he needs it. Our favorite: "importer-exporter." (2)

- 1. Mission Accomplish** George helps Elaine renege on being legal guardian to a friend's child; he alternately tells the kid's mom that Elaine is going to live with her grandparents in Reading, Pennsylvania; she's being deported to Scotland; and she has been chosen to represent the Upper West Side in the next Biosphere project—which is underwater—for charity. (He adds, "I'm also an architect.") (152)

broken six years of tradition and wears it chopped short and straight. **RATING:** ★★ It's hard to find one really solid laugh here. And those manic chase scenes (Jerry/Newman) haven't worked since *The Monkees*.

THE BIZARRO JERRY

EPISODE 129

PREMIERED: 10/03/96 **WRITER:** David Mandel **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Suddenly everyone but Jerry gets a life: Kramer stumbles into a job at an investment firm; George discovers the secret of dating supermodels; and Elaine starts hanging with a trio of guys who are Kramer, George and Jerry's opposites. In Bizarro World, the menfolk are courteous and (*gasp!*) read all the time. Jerry can't cope: Kramer comes home late from his faux job and finds Jerry sitting alone in the dark, a neglected hausfrau. Order is finally restored to the *Seinfeld* universe when Elaine gives Bizarro Jerry one of her big shoves and he crumples. **GUEST STARS:** DeKay (back this time as Bizarro Jerry), Kyle T. Hefner (B. George), Pat Kilbane (B. Kramer) **ELAINE CHANGE:** Pledging her allegiance to Bizarro World, Elaine says, "I can't spend the rest of my life coming into this stinking apartment every 10 minutes to pore over the excruciating minutiae of every single daily event." **NEARLY BELOVED:** George captures the interest of a gorgeous receptionist by showing her the picture of a total stranger and claiming she's his dead wife. **RATING:** ★★★ An episode in which everything is opposites, and it attracts.

THE LITTLE KICKS

EPISODE 130

PREMIERED: 10/10/96 **WRITER:** Spike Feresten **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** At a J. Peterman party, Elaine takes over the dance floor, and it isn't pretty. Describing the horror to Jerry later, George says, "It was more like a full-body dry heave set to music." Elaine's staff starts openly mocking her at the office. Kramer's bootlegger friend, Brody, persuades Jerry to secretly videotape movies in theaters; when Jerry's work is hailed on the streets, he develops auteurist airs. Trying to enhance his bad-boy image for Anna, a J. Peterman employee, George takes over the bootleg taping and gets arrested. **GUEST STARS:** Neil Giuntoli (Brody), Rebecca McFarland (Anna) **CATCHPHRASES THAT NEVER CAUGHT**

ON: "Sweet fancy Moses!" used by George and Jerry, when reacting to Elaine's dry-heave stylings. **FLASHDANCE:** Jerry, in a rare flashback, remembers the first time he saw Elaine mangle a rug. **AUTO-UNEROTIC:** George discovers that the orthopedic pillow in his father's GTO is not a babe magnet. **RATING:** ★★ George trying to act *baaad* and Elaine's lurch are the episode's only memorable moments.

THE PACKAGE

EPISODE 131

PREMIERED: 10/17/96 **WRITER:** Jennifer Crittenden **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** When Sheila, an attractive blonde at the photo store, implies she has been checking out George's pictures, he decides to communicate with her via photo. But his suggestive underwear poses end up in the wrong photo-shop clerk's hands. Elaine disputes her doctor's characterization of her as "difficult," only to discover that she then can't get a doctor anywhere in the free world to take her seriously. Jerry lets Kramer lure him into a mail-fraud scheme that is cracked by Newman, who puts George's racy pictures to good use. **GUEST STARS:** Heather Campbell (Sheila), Knight (Newman) **BE GRATEFUL FOR XXL BLESSINGS:** George strips down to boxers, not briefs. **CLOSEST THEY'LL GET TO CASTING SHARON STONE:** Newman's interrogation of Jerry is an apparent homage to the "Basic Instinct" scene in which Knight cross-examined Sharon Stone while she artfully uncrossed her legs. **RATING:** ★★ There's a hideous grandeur to George's only brush with cheesecake that he can't eat, but this isn't one for the *Seinfeld* photo album.

THE FATIGUES

EPISODE 132

PREMIERED: 10/31/96 **WRITERS:** Gregg Kavet, Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** A show about mentors and protégés. Jerry is dating Abby, whose mentor is Cynthia, who is dating Bania, whose comedy act stinks and who becomes Jerry's protégé. After Abby breaks up with Cynthia, Cynthia breaks up with Bania, Abby breaks up with Jerry, and Jerry breaks everybody up with some well-rounded Ovaltine material. George has let the Yankees think he's an expert in the field of risk management but presents the Ovaltine bit by mistake at a company do. Elaine mentors a psychotic, fatigues-

wearing mail clerk. Kramer finally finds his mentor in Frank Costanza, who helps him cook such delicacies as kreplach and tzimmes for 183 Jewish singles. **GUEST STARS:** Ned Bellamy (Eddie), Stephen Hytner (Bania), Knight (Newman), A.J. Langer (Abby), Katie Layman (Cynthia), Jerry Stiller (Frank) **TECHNICALLY IT WAS A POLICE ACTION:** Although Estelle Costanza

every time you turn on a TV, all you see is four morons sitting around an apartment whining about their dates." At their first pitch meeting, a Japanese TV exec orders them out of his office. In the second, one of the Japanese tourists Kramer has taken in as a boarder tells the exec, "Jerry Seinfeld is a dangerous lunatic." **GUEST STAR:** James Patrick Stuart (Brett) **SEIN POST:** We learn that Jerry not only supported himself during his early years in show business by selling



The episode 127 season opener showed a new, post-Larry David trend: More physical comedy, like the K-man's karate kick.

remains a closed book, we learn more about Frank's profoundly troubled experiences in the Korean War (see the manicurist incident in episode 104). **RATING:** ★★ Kramer's tsouris over tzimmes, his kvetching over kreplach: He's funny, that boy. Oy.

THE CHECKS

EPISODE 133

PREMIERED: 11/07/96 **WRITERS:** Steve O'Donnell, Tom Gammill, Max Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine hooks up with Brett, a good-looking, Ferrari-driving guy. But the yuppie dreamboat refuses to let "his" song (the Eagles' "Desperado") become "their" song. He keeps assuming that Jerry is a down-on-his-luck loser, which all available evidence here confirms. Kramer suggests that Jerry cash in on his new fame in Japan (from his turn on *Super Terrific Happy Hour*) by selling the Jerry show pilot to Japanese television. George agrees, but Jerry points out that NBC hated it. "It failed here," George counters, "because here

umbrellas on the street but that he invented (he claims) the practice of twirling them to attract attention. **RATING:** ★★ Whatever happened to letting a smile be your umbrella?

THE CHICKEN ROASTER

EPISODE 134

PREMIERED: 11/14/96 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine has been putting all major household purchases on her J. Peterman expense account, until the company's accountant tells her she's finished if she doesn't return a sable hat she charged for George. He has used the hat as a "leave-behind" to assure himself a second date with salesgirl Heather, but she insists she doesn't have the hat. When Kenny Rogers Roasters erects a huge crimson neon sign outside Kramer's window, his apartment becomes a red menace. In an unfathomable plot contrivance, he persuades Jerry to change apartments with him; hypnotized by the light, Jerry begins to talk and act like Kramer, and

"I'M HONORED THAT WHEN THEY WERE CASTING THE MOST ANNOYING PERSON IN THE WORLD, THEY CHOSE ME."—Stephen Hytner, on playing Kenny Bania

vice versa. **GUEST STARS:** Catherine Lloyd Burns (Heather), Knight (Newman), O'Hurley (Peterman), Mark Roberts (Seth) **WHY SEINFELD ISN'T CALLED FRIENDS:** After Jerry convinces his college friend Seth to blow off a business meeting, the guy gets fired from his job at an investment firm. **FOOD NEVER LIES:** Jerry catches Newman picking up an order that includes a side of broccoli, a sure sign that Kramer's Roasters boycott has folded. When Newman insists the broccoli is really for him, Jerry waves him off: "Newman, you wouldn't eat broccoli if it was deep-fried in chocolate sauce."

RATING: ★ Nothing works here, least of all the "Apocalypse Now" parody, when Elaine searches Burma for Peterman as Brando. The horror, indeed.

THE ABSTINENCE

EPISODE 135

PREMIERED: 11/21/96 **WRITER:** Steve Koren
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Dating a woman who won't have sex sharpens George's faculties, but abstinence makes Elaine "a moron." Meanwhile, Kramer shows his smarts after Jerry gets bumped from Career Day at his old junior high. Kramer suggests the school might be trying to screw with his head. "Now

why would a junior high school want to screw with my head?" Jerry asks. Kramer replies, "Why does Radio Shack ask for your phone number when you buy batteries?" Later, Kramer is reunited with attorney Jackie Chiles in a lawsuit against tobacco companies for ruining his face after he ran a smoking lounge in his apartment for three days. Jerry asks him what he expected. "Emphysema, birth defects, cancer, but not this!" wheezes the K-man. "Look away, I'm hideous!"

GUEST STARS: Phil Morris (Jackie Chiles); Derek Jeter, David Letterman, Alex Trebek and Bernie Williams (as themselves in a *Late Show* closing segment). **SCHOLASTIC HARVEST OF SHAME:** It's revealed that the junior high Jerry and George attended was named for CBS News legend Edward R. Murrow. **RATING:** ★★ Some exceptionally clever dialogue, but it seems like we've heard this one before.

THE ANDREA DORIA

EPISODE 136

PREMIERED: 12/19/96 **WRITER:** Feresten
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Kramer gets in touch with his inner puppy. Reluctant to visit an M.D., Kramer picks up medicine from a vet when he notices his cough is similar to a passing dog's. Jerry forces a

pill down his throat, takes Kramer for a ride and yells "Bad neighbor!" The K-nine runs away, then leads policemen to a restaurant where a woman is beating up a man. That would be Elaine: Her new boyfriend Alan's cruel remarks have made her sensitive about "my giant freak head. I'm a walkin' candy apple." Newman isn't walking anywhere because Kramer has bitten him on the ankle, so Jerry agrees to deliver the mail. That's trouble because Jerry gets 80 percent of the mail to the correct addresses. "Nobody from the post office has ever cracked the 50 percent barrier," Newman barks.

GUEST STARS: Tom Gallop (Alan), Knight (Newman) **MY LIFE AS A DOG:** George tries to get an apartment by acing out a survivor of the *Andrea Doria* shipwreck. He intends to convince the tenant board that "the story of my life as a short, stocky, slow-witted bald man" is more pathetic than a shipwreck victim's. "I can go bummer to bummer with anyone on this planet," he assures Jerry. **RATING:** ★★ Elaine's big head doesn't get in the way of the fun, but something is beginning to feel awfully familiar.

THE LITTLE JERRY

EPISODE 137

PREMIERED: 01/09/97 **WRITER:** Crittenden
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Doing foundation work, George meets a female inmate, and they hit it off ("I have relatively no competition!"). Conjugal sex becomes unnecessary when chain-ganged Celia busts out and flees to George ("The breakout pop-in," Jerry notes). Kramer skirts the law himself when he gets a cockfighting rooster and names it Little Jerry Seinfeld. At a match, Big Jerry stops watching Little Jerry long enough to caution Elaine that her life would change if she marries new beau Kurt. "It's 3:30 in the morning, I'm at a cockfight," she replies. "What am I clinging to?" **GUEST STARS:** Andrea Bendewald (Celia), John Michael Higgins (Kurt), Kathryn Joosten (Betsy the warden) **THE BALD TRUTH:** Elaine dates a guy who gives up shaving his head for her, only to discover that he's losing his hair. She dumps Kurt because by the time he's out of prison (her fault), he'll be really bald. **HOW LOW CAN HE GO?** Fearing his prison visits will end when Celia is



Miguel Sandoval plays doliman-cockfight mogul Marcelino in episode 137, as Kramer runs a fowl of the law.

paroled, George torpedoes her release by implying to the warden that Celia's eager to get back to a life of crime. **RATING: ★★★** And you thought your life was twisted.

THE MONEY

EPISODE 138

PREMIERED: 01/16/97 **WRITER:** Mehlman
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry, George and Elaine check the bottom line: Elaine's riding high as the new president of J. Peterman ("I've got stock options" she brags); Jerry's parents, Helen and Morty, think he's broke and sell the Caddy that he gave them to jerky Jack Klompus so Jerry can get his money back; George covets the family nest egg after running the actuarial tables on his parents. Of course, Frank and Estelle go on a spending spree, Elaine loses her job, and Jerry gets hosed trying to buy back the Caddy. **GUEST STARS:** Sandy Baron (Jack Klompus), Estelle Harris (Estelle), Barney Martin (Morty), Liz Sheridan (Helen), Sarah Silverman (Emily), Stiller (Frank) **COSMO NAUGHT:** Kramer can't get a good night's sleep with Emily's snuggling "Jimmy legs" poking him. **SEIN POSTS:** We learn Jerry's dad sold raincoats in the garment district for 30 years and that George's parents have slept in separate beds for that long. **RATINGS: ★★★** Cadillac setups with economy-car payoffs.

THE COMEBACK

EPISODE 139

PREMIERED: 01/16/97 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Robin **DIRECTOR:** David Owen Trainor **STORY:** When George gets zinged during a Yankees staff meeting for stuffing shrimp in his mouth ("Hey, George, the ocean called. They're running out of shrimp!"), he plots to nail the insulter with a topper. The best he can come up with: "The jerk store called, and they're running outta you!" Kramer, meanwhile, writes a living will, naming Elaine executor. When Jerry discovers that Milos the tennis-shop pro has no game, the disgraced ace sends his wife to Jerry "as some sort of medieval sexual payola." This leads to Kramer's getting knocked unconscious by tennis balls, then waking up in the hospital with Elaine standing over him, plug in hand. **GUEST STARS:** Mark Harelik (Milos), Ben Stein (Shellbach) **DEATH SENTENCES:** Elaine, Kramer and Kramer's lawyer, Shellbach, go over the possible conditions for pulling the plug.

"You have liver, kidneys, and gallbladder, but no central nervous system." Yank it. "One lung, blind, and you're eating through a tube." Adios. "You can eat, but machines do everything else." Kramer decides to give that one a try: "I could still go to the coffee shop." **RATING: ★** Go ahead, pull the plug. We dare you.

THE VAN BUREN BOYS

EPISODE 140

PREMIERED: 02/06/97 **WRITER:** Darin Henry
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Losers abound! Jerry fears his "fantastic" new girlfriend, Ellen, is really a friendless pariah when he realizes their first date is also her birthday. George picks his alter ego—an over-weight, balding,



Jason Alexander started flogging Rold Gold pretzels on TV in September 1993, the same month George munched them in episode 64. Hellooo, product placement!

lying loser (named Steven Koren in honor of a *Seinfeld* writer)—as the first Susan Ross Foundation scholar. Elaine,

while ghost-writing Peterman's bio, realizes her seemingly adventurous boss is a closet bore who clips coupons, lets his plants die and lives in an apartment that has

all the visual splendor of a Best Western. Kramer sells anecdotes from his life for use in the book. Price: \$750. **GUEST STARS:** O'Hurley (Peterman), Jed Rhein (Steven), Christine Taylor (Ellen) **SEIN LANGUAGE:** Which came first, Jerry's "buh-bye" or David Spade's *Saturday Night Live* bit? **WAIT'LL THE CRIPS HEAR ABOUT THIS:** The scholarship kid returns by show's end to threaten George, accompanied by members of a street gang named after the forgettable eighth U.S. President, Martin Van Buren. **RATING: ★★** High concept, middling entertainment.

THE SUSIE

EPISODE 141

PREMIERED: 02/13/97 **WRITER:** Mandel
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Doppelgängers and cases of mistaken identity haunt the paranoid quartet. Elaine is mistaken for a nonexistent colleague named Susie. George fears he's about to be dumped by girlfriend Allison and winds up with Kramer as his proxy date at a Yankees party. Meanwhile, Jerry is mistaken for a hitman by a thuggish bookie wannabe, Mike. When Elaine decides to kill off her evil twin and "hitman" Jerry is mistakenly blamed, she's stunned to find Susie's funeral an A-list event with mourners like Peterman, who claims to have slept with the ghostly gal. **GUEST STARS:** Lee Arenberg (Mike), Shannon Kenny (Allison), O'Hurley (Peterman) **LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING:** Kramer and George achieve more than laughs with their romantic behavior at the party. A rare moment of pathos. **TWO-TIMING:** Tired of waiting for

daylight savings time, Kramer sets his watch back one hour. **RATING: ★★★** Thin plot, but George's *Greatest American Hero* answering-machine message is hilariously annoying.

THE POTHOLE

EPISODE 142

PREMIERED: 02/20/97 **WRITERS:** O'Donnell, Dan O'Keefe **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** After Jerry accidentally knocks his girlfriend Jenna's toothbrush into the toilet, he can't bear to kiss her because "she has the taint." Elaine tells him, "Jerry, you have tendencies, but now I'm afraid we're talking disorder." She should talk. When a Chinese restaurant won't deliver a coveted flounder dish to her side of the street ("Food only for those who live in boundary!"), she pretends to live in a janitor's closet in a building across the street. Kramer's on the road, too: He adopts a section of highway and is soon washing traffic signs in Jerry's kitchen sink. Everything blows sky-high when George, obsessed with retrieving his keys from a paved-over pothole, jackhammers through underground pipes, dousing Jerry's girlfriend with, uh,

toilet water. **GUEST STARS:** Kristin Davis (Jenna), Knight (Newman) **HE HAD IT COMING:** In a highway explosion, Newman gets his goose cooked—or in this case the flounder he's delivering—while moonlighting for the Chinese restaurant. **CIVIC LESSONS:** Kramer adopts a highway because "parenting isn't about delegating, it's about being there." **RATING: ★★** Classic *Seinfeld* in its meshing of the quartet's obsessions and cracks in the Big Apple. Extra credit: the ambitious tech touches like the toilet's-eye camera shot and the highway fireball.

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

EPISODE 143

PREMIERED: 03/13/97 **WRITER:** Koren **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine derides the must-see film "The English Patient" ("Sex in a tub? That doesn't work!") and pays the price for fighting a fad: Friends drop her; her boyfriend, Blaine, dumps her; and Peterman packs her off to Tunisia for some inspirational penance. Jerry's doing time of a different sort in Florida, helping his parents move into their condo. He gets sucked into macho one-upmanship games with ancient Izzy Mandelbaum. Meanwhile, George meets sexy blonde Danielle and becomes obsessed with besting her boyfriend, Neil, his supposed twin. **GUEST STARS:** Lloyd Bridges (Izzy), Todd Jeffries (Blaine), Martin (Morty), Jeff Miller (Neil), Chelsea Noble (Danielle), Sheridan (Helen) **ROLLED GOLD:** Kramer imports Cuban immigrants to make cigars. **RATING: ★** An American patient in dire need of a rescue operation.

wizardry, Jerry gets his old kitchen back, George finds a new place to snooze (one level above Jerry's cereal collection), and assorted parties wind up in the East River. **GUEST STARS:** Vince Grant (Hal), Stephen Lee (Conrad) **BACK STORY:** Elaine's new boyfriend, Hal, is a chiropractor's dream who shops for furniture at the Lumbar Yard. **GOOD HOSTESS:** We learn that Elaine loves Twinkies whether they are "cooked" or raw. **SEIN POSTS:** Watch for a temporary Martha Stewart transformation of Jerry's kitchen. **RATING: ★★** A little Steinbrenner doesn't go a long way, although Elaine's claiming to be a veteran clammer ("Yeah, and I scallop") is a pearl.

offends me as a comedian." More conflict arises as Kramer and mini-Mickey come to blows while double-dating two babes they picked up at the Gap. When Mickey weds one of the babes, Jill St. John and Robert Wagner show up as the little guy's way-handsome parents. **GUEST STARS:** Bryan Cranston (Dr. Tim), Suzanne Cryer (Marcy), Robert Wagner and Jill St. John (Mickey's parents), Danny Woodburn (Mickey), Henry Woronicz (Father Curtis) **SEIN POSTS:** This episode contains one of the few references to Jerry's being Jewish. **ALL THE NEWS THAT...HELLO?** Jerry gets a call asking if he's interested in a subscription to the *New York Times*. "Yes," he says and hangs up. **RATINGS: ★★** One of the wittiest, sharpest, funniest...yada, yada, yada.



Danny Woodburn made his first appearance as the wee actor Mickey, Kramer's pal, in episode 77 on Feb. 24, 1994.

THE NAP

EPISODE 144

PREMIERED: 04/10/97 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Everyone needs a little R&R. Nap-crazed George schemes to find an office snoozing spot. "Sometimes a nap is the only thing that gets me out of bed in the morning," he moans to Jerry, who's seeking peace during a kitchen redo. With help from Jerry's superpassive carpenter, Conrad ("or Connie, if you prefer"), George gets a doghouse-size bedroom under his desk, complete with alarm clock. But 40 winks drop to none when Steinbrenner mistakes the clock for a terrorist bomb. Kramer is alarmed by "pool problems" created by geriatric aquacizers at his usual swimming hole, so he takes to the East River. Despite Conrad's woodworking

THE YADA YADA

EPISODE 145

PREMIERED: 04/24/97 **WRITERS:** Mehlman, Jill Franklyn **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** The all-purpose phrase "yada, yada, yada" is catching on, thanks to George's "succinct" but kleptomaniac girlfriend, Marcy. Dating a "yada, yada" gal "is good," Jerry tells a skeptical George: It's "like dating *USA Today*." What's not good, Jerry thinks, is his dentist's conversion to Judaism; Jerry suspects he did it "for the jokes." Although his outrage leads to Kramer's accusations that he's an "anti-dentite," Jerry visits a confessional (where he promptly sits on the kneeler) to squeal on Dr. Tim. "And this offends you as a Jew?" asks Father Curtis. "No, it

THE MILLENNIUM

EPISODE 146

PREMIERED: 05/01/97 **WRITER:** Crittenden **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** It's back to the future as Kramer preps for his Millennium New Year's Eve party 18 months early. Jerry speed-dials into his romance with girlfriend Valerie, and George tries to get ahead while falling behind. Faced with a job offer from the New York Mets ("We're not 'talking' here, we're just talking," explains one thuggish, Mamet-worthy exec), George tries to get fired by the Yankees. But his screw-me schemes (donning Babe Ruth's memorialized pinstripes, streaking Yankee Stadium in a flesh-colored bodysuit) only endear him more to Steinbrenner. "I'm failing at

failing," he moans to Jerry. Elaine also shoots herself in the foot when she tries to drive the snobby Putumayo clothing store out of business by unleashing Kramer with a loaded pricing gun. **GUEST STAR:** Lauren Graham (Valerie) **RATING:** ★★ ★ Never mind what he says: George is great at failing.

THE MUFFIN TOPS

EPISODE 147

PREMIERED: 05/08/97 **WRITER:** Feresten

DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Lots of cutting and paring going on here. George worries about excess ear hair, Jerry shaves his chest (and discovers it's a turn-on to hairless freak gal pal Alex) and Elaine comes up with a scheme to shear muffins and sell only the tops, "where the muffin breaks free of the pan." When she gets stuck with the muffin stumps (even the homeless shelter won't take them), she turns to Kramer, who tries taking them to garbage dumps while running his Peterman Reality Tour bus, which has been sparked by the bestselling Peterman bio based on anecdotes from Kramer's life. Meanwhile, George happily plays the Out-of-Towner after being mistaken for a tourist by Mary Anne, a dishy New York Visitor Center employee. Finally, Elaine turns to the Cleaner (Newman) to dispose of the muffettes. **GUEST STARS:** Melinda Clarke (Alex), Knight (Newman), Rena Sofer (Mary Anne) **AND YOU ARE?** Rebecca DeMornay, the name of the overweight angry African-American woman who works at the homeless shelter. **THE PLOT SICKENS:** Peterman's bio title: *Without a Placket*. **SEIN POSTS:** The Peterman Reality Tour is a spoof of a *Seinfeld* reality tour in New York operated by the real-life (Kenny) Kramer. **RATING:** ★★ ★ ★ "The Muffin Tops" takes the cake.

THE SUMMER OF GEORGE

EPISODE 148

PREMIERED: 05/15/97 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer

DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Girl trouble ruins what George, who has been dumped by the Yankees with a cushy three-month severance deal, envisioned as "his" summer. In fact, estrogen-spiked snafus are screwing up everyone. Jerry's new girlfriend, Lanette, is so demanding, he recruits George as his summer relationship intern to help share the load. Elaine is accused of being catty when dorky, walking-impaired female co-worker Sam hits town. And Kramer, the miscast recipient of a Tony for the musical "Scarsdale Surprise," has to fire the "train wreck" of a star, Raquel

KRAMER'S HAIR-BRAINED IDEAS

The coffee-table book about coffee tables...the "Bro" bra for men...beach-scented Beach cologne—yada, yada, yada. Like we haven't all heard about Kramer's greatest hits. But the K-man's an idea factory, churning out schemes and scams and kooky concepts faster than you can say, "Giddy-up!" In fact, there's such a fertile mind lurking under that "Eraserhead"—via—Don King hairdo, we'll bet you can't spot the five fakes sprinkled throughout this compendium of brilliant idiocy that we brought back from a trip to the Cosmo cosmos.

- 
1. Opening a chain of make-your-own pizza restaurants (episode 4)
 2. Operating the Peterman Reality Tour, based on J. Peterman's bestselling "biography" based on anecdotes from Kramer's life (147)
 3. Taking up kayaking in the East River, only to run afoul of an Asian immigrant-smuggling operation (101)
 4. Using butter as an aftershave moisturizer, then accidentally frying himself while sunbathing on the roof, thereby acquiring a special Newman-tormenting scent (149)
 5. Suing Java World for millions after suffering cafe-latte burns (106)
 6. Selling George's interoffice envelope bearing the signatures of New York Yankees star Don Mattingly and manager Buck Showalter (108)
 7. Rejoining the Boy Scouts to get the bird-watching merit badge he failed to earn as a youngster (85)
 8. Instructing firemen on using shortcuts to reach fires faster (the radio scanner bought at Leapin' Larry's appliance store tells him there's a crying need for his help) (111)
 9. Training Little Jerry Seinfeld, his own cockfighting champion (137)
 10. Putting Kramerica Industries to work developing a rubber bladder for oil tankers to prevent oil spills (150)
 11. Adopting a highway and cleaning it himself, even washing the traffic signs in Jerry's kitchen sink (142)
 12. Making gravel in a blender (154)
 13. Working from Jerry's apartment as a dispatcher for an escort service (12)
 14. Cashing in on recycling by traveling to Michigan with Newman in a postal truck full of soda bottles, because the bottle-return rate is a nickel higher there (124)
 15. Insisting he deserves the \$100 prize because a bank's everybody-gets-a-hello policy was violated when he got a "Hey" instead (126)
 16. Running a dinner for 183 Jewish singles and cooking delicacies like kreplach and tzimmes with Frank Costanza (132)
 17. Slicing his own meat, extra thin, with his own meat slicer (156)
 18. Hoarding his own blood in Newman's meat freezer to avoid the the blood bank's service charge (152)
 19. Racing up down escalators, despite the crowds, to get into shape for the New York City Marathon (43)
 20. Saving time by doing everyday errands in the shower, including preparing radish roses for a dinner party (157)
 21. Making sausages with Newman in Jerry's apartment (152)
 22. Suing the tobacco companies for ruining his face after he ran a smoking lounge in his apartment for three days (135)
 23. Installing a hot tub, with its 16,000-BTU heat pump, in his living room (109)
 24. Reading books to the blind, then quitting because he nearly goes out of his mind reading to a gorgeous redhead client who likes to hear erotica (22)
 25. Chaperoning Miss Rhode Island on her date with Jerry—as called for by Miss America's pageant rules—and then becoming her personal consultant (83)

FAKES: 3, 7, 13, 19, 24

Welch. Things get ugly when Sam turns into a stalker, Raquel loses her wrath on Kramer and hapless Elaine, and George literally misses a step in keeping up with Lanette and injures himself. Instead of spending his summer "reading a book from start to finish and in that order,"

George learns to walk again in physical therapy, right alongside scary Sam. **GUEST STARS:** Amanda Peet (Lanette), Molly Shannon (Sam), Raquel Welch (as herself). **RATING:** ★★ ★ The season ends on a high note, showing there's still something left in the show about nothing.

9

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In a 1993 *Playboy* interview, flush with high ratings and critical success, Jerry Seinfeld prophetically announced, "I can guarantee you we won't do 10 [years]. I don't want to be in people's faces. This show is going to be off way sooner than anyone would believe."

Well, he almost made it to 10, but Seinfeld's decision to call it quits while on top came sooner than almost anyone wanted to believe. Especially NBC, which reportedly offered Seinfeld \$5 million an episode to keep its signature comedy.

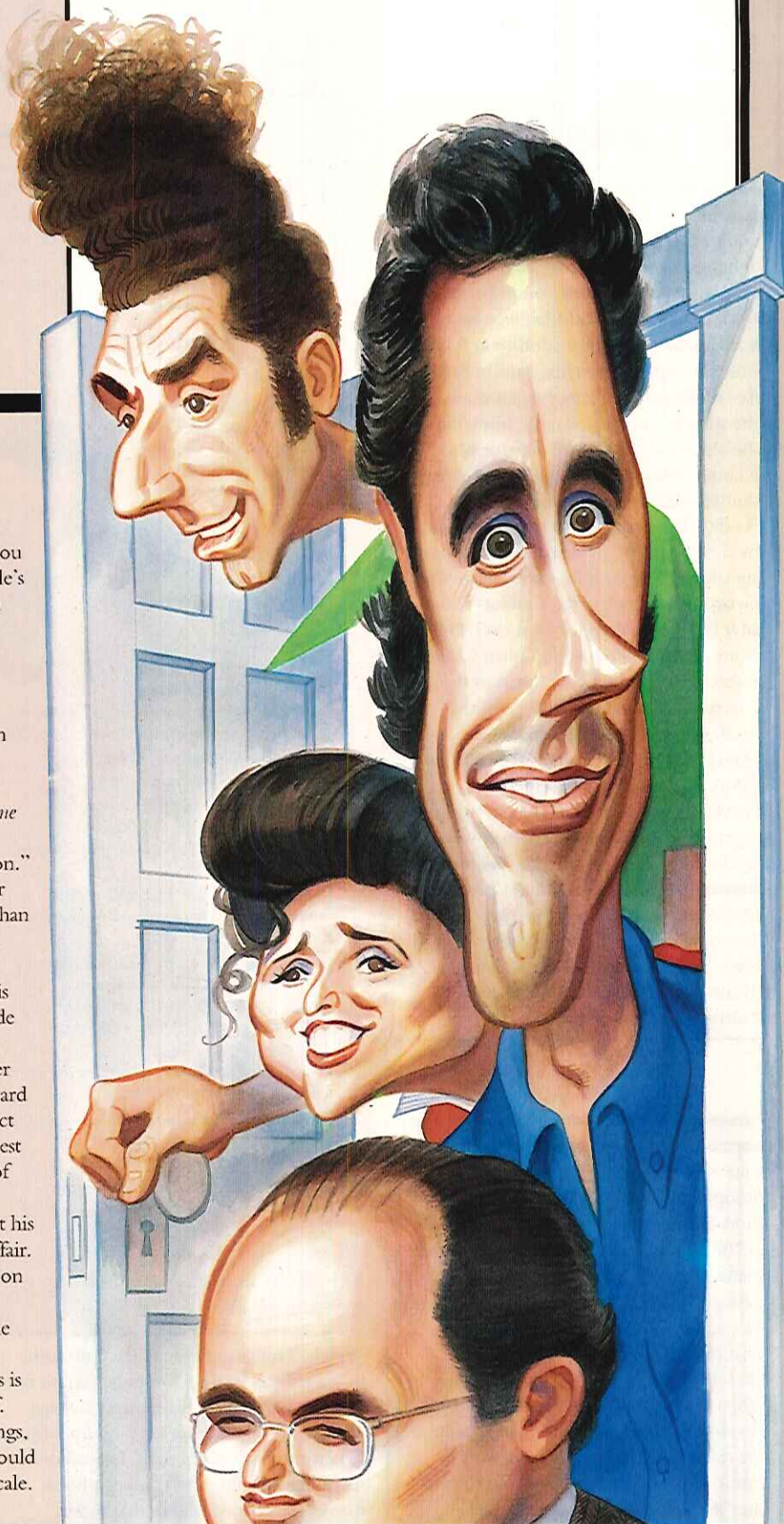
The pleading was to no avail. After May: Nada, nada, nada. "If I get off now," he explained in a *Time* cover story about his decision (talk about being in people's faces), "I have a chance at a standing ovation."

He has a point. If he'd decided to stick around for another year, the press would doubtless be less kind than they have been during the hype of these final weeks. Just a month before his decision, Seinfeld was again answering criticism about this season's quality after his costars' rancorous negotiations for heftier salaries made headlines: \$600,000 a week during this last hurrah.

In truth, the *Seinfeld* touch was revealing an ever heavier hand. Even doing an entire episode backward as a kinky experiment in form couldn't erase the fact that its content was less than knee-slapping. The closest thing to a genuine gem: Kramer's transformation of his apartment into the old *Merv Griffin Show* set.

In the *Playboy* interview, Seinfeld predicted that his TV celebrity would go the way of a soured love affair. "So you might as well experience the peak of passion with whatever relationship we're talking about, whether it's with a person or, in this case...with the public. It's going to end badly. Everything ends."

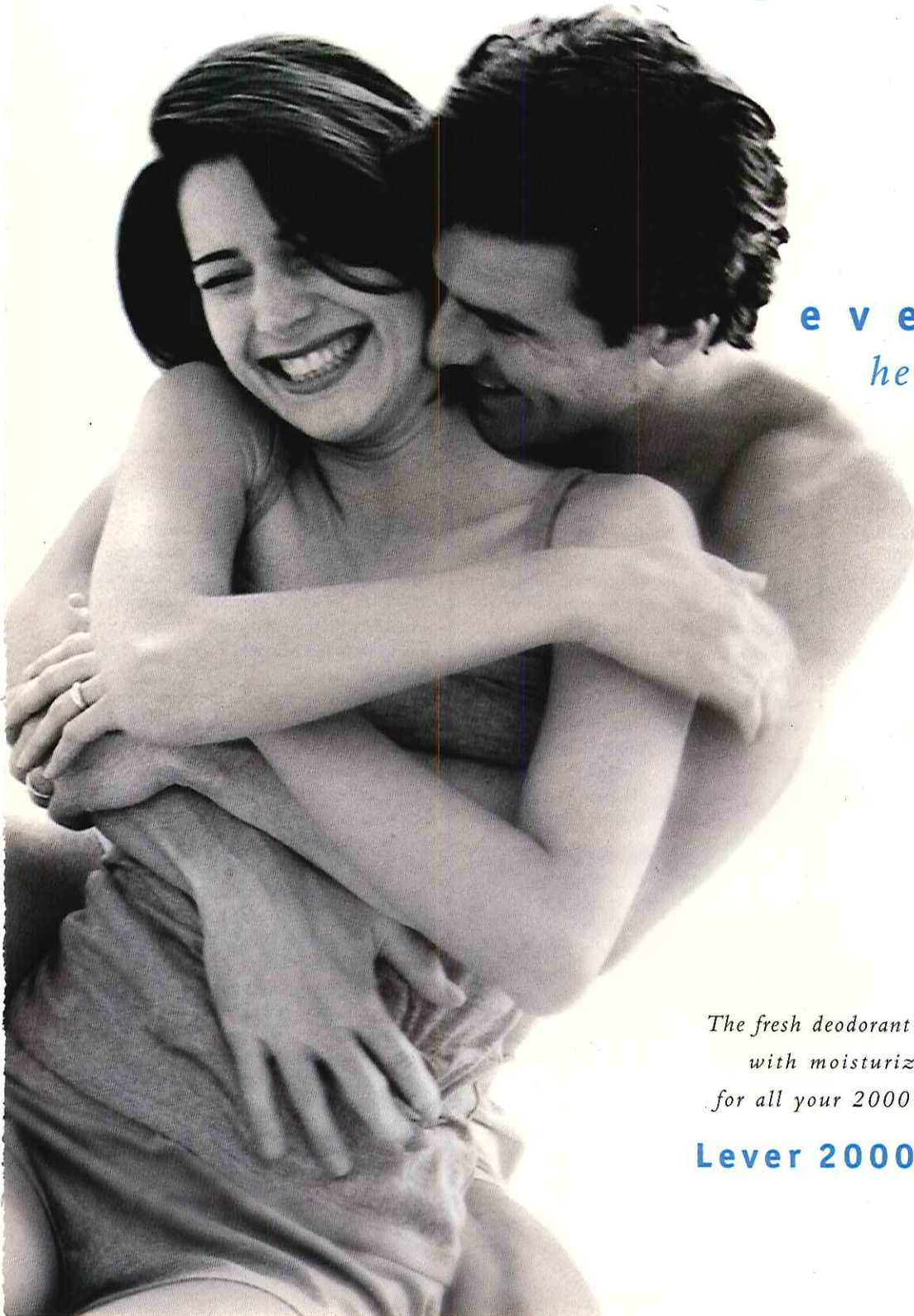
So it ends, but hardly as badly as he feared. This is no *Roseanne*, limping off as a shell of its former self. *Seinfeld* goes out on a high: high ad rates, high ratings, high expectations, setting a high bar for all who would ever attempt to achieve nothing on such a grand scale.



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THE BUTTER SHAVE

E P I S O D E 1 4 9

PREMIERED: 09/25/97 **WRITERS:** Alec Berg, David Mandel, Jeff Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Andy Ackerman **STORY:** George sports a cane for his interview at Play Now sporting goods, so his boss to be assumes he's "differently abled." Kramer starts using butter as an aftershave—"Oh, Moses, smell the roses," Jerry says—then accidentally "cooks" himself on the roof. His delectable smell torments Newman. Jerry "takes a dive" (does a dud show) to expose parasitic comic Bania. **GUEST STARS:** Stephen Hytner (Bania), Gordon Jump (George's boss, Mr. Thomassoulo), Wayne Knight (Newman), Patrick Warburton (Puddy) **SILLY PUDDY:** Elaine reunites with the mechanic. "She's battled around, and she's back at the top of the order," explains Jerry. **RATING: ★★** A smorgasbord of tasty stories and deliciously bizarre sight gags is a hearty appetizer to the final season.

THE VOICE

E P I S O D E 1 5 0

PREMIERED: 10/02/97 **WRITERS:** Berg, Mandel, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** You can never be too rich or too annoying. To wit: George pledges to stay at Play Now, although he's universally loathed. Jerry develops a silly voice—"Helloooo!"—as a response to girlfriend Claire's "talking" belly button. Kramer hires an NYU intern, Darin, to work for KramERICA, testing an "oil tanker bladder system." But the system runs afoul of Claire, whose subsequent lawsuit puts Play Now out of business. **GUEST STARS:** Jarrad Paul (Darin), Sara Rose Peterson (Claire), Warburton (Puddy) **BEAUTIFUL SCHEMER:** The K-man suggests putting "ketchup and mustard in the same bottle." **RATING: ★★** On the strength of the "voice." Whether you love it or leave it, it's already a classic.

THE SERENITY NOW

E P I S O D E 1 5 1

PREMIERED: 10/09/97 **WRITER:** Steve Koren **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Repressed emotions run rampant in this episode, which features Frank Costanza screaming "Serenity now!" (from his relaxation tapes) whenever he's riled. He enlists George and the still insane Lloyd Braun to sell computers out of the garage. Kramer installs the Costanzas' old screen door to simulate

"the cool evening breezes of Anytown, USA." When Jerry's girlfriend, Patty, tries to tap into his emotions, he lets loose and dumps her, then proposes to Elaine. She finally says, "All right, Jerome, I'm in," but a "scared straight" Jerry replies, "I tell you, I don't see it happening." **GUEST STARS:** Richard Fancy (Lippman), Estelle Harris (Estelle), Lori Loughlin (Patty), Bruce Mahler (Rabbi Glickman), Ross Malinger (Adam), Matt McCoy (Lloyd Braun), Jerry Stiller (Frank) **LOVE POTION NO. 19:** Elaine's "shiksappeal" causes Jewish men to hit on her. **PERFECT PITCH:** George's sales spiel: "You can check porn and stock quotes." **RATING: ★★** This admittedly uneven episode is a breakthrough: Watching Jerry explore his feelings is a rush. And Frank gives folks everywhere a mantra.

THE BLOOD

E P I S O D E 1 5 2

PREMIERED: 10/16/97 **WRITER:** Dan O'Keefe **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry's parents hire geriatric Izzy Mandelbaum to help Jerry remedy that "spare tire." Kramer begins hoarding his blood, first at a blood bank, then in Newman's meat freezer. After nicking his jugular with an Exacto, Jerry learns "you got three pints of Kramer in you, buddy!" Soon Kramer's asking favors (involving homemade sausage) of his "blood brother." Elaine visits suburban mom Vivian and offers to "baby-sit the hell out of that kid," which leads Vivian to confide that she has health problems and needs someone on deck in case "the worst happens." Oops. **GUEST STARS:** Lloyd Bridges (Izzy Mandelbaum), Audrey Kissel (Tara), Knight (Newman), Barney Martin (Morty), Liz Sheridan

Save George from "The Heart Attack" (13)? Or bicker over Chuckles? Now that's a dilemma.

(Helen), Kellie Waymire (Vivian) **TOUGH LOVE:** Izzy calls Jerry "doughboy," "daffodil" and "butter bean."

EVEN TOUGHER LOVE: George shoots for the "trifecta"—sex, food and TV, all at once—with girlfriend Tara. **RATING: ★★** Elaine's and Kramer's storylines are anemic.

THE JUNK MAIL

E P I S O D E 1 5 3

PREMIERED: 10/30/97 **WRITER:** Spike Feresten **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** When Jerry's old camp buddy "Fragile" Frankie Merman gets him a van instead of the Saab he promised, Jerry's afraid to say he hates it: Every time Frankie gets upset, he runs into the woods. Kramer, angered by the Pottery Barn catalogs clogging his mailbox, acquires the van for an "antimail campaign," which is cut short after an intimidating visit from the postmaster general. The action ends in the woods, where Jerry has come to find a distraught Frankie, and George has gone to make out with his cousin Rhisa—and where the Costanzas end up rocking the van. **GUEST STARS:** Wilfred Brimley (Postmaster General), Dana Gould (Frankie), Harris (Estelle), Toby Huss (Jack), Knight (Newman), Stiller (Frank), Laurie Taylor-Williams (Rhisa), Warburton (Puddy) **FROM BAD TO WORSE:** Elaine's temp Puddy replacement, Jack, is the posturing pitchman for a Nobody Beats the Wiz commercial. **RATING: ★** The only part of "The Junk Mail" that delivers is the over-the-top strutting of the Wiz.

THE MERV GRIFFIN SHOW

E P I S O D E 1 5 4

PREMIERED: 11/06/97 **WRITER:** Bruce Eric Kaplan **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George enters a war with pigeons after they break the "deal" in which they are to scatter whenever humans approach. Animal-loving girlfriend Miranda is upset, more so when he hits a squirrel while driving. Improbably, George pays the vet bill and takes the animal home. Meanwhile, Jerry's latest conquest, Celia, is well-endowed—with her dad's vintage toy collection. She won't let Jerry touch, though, so he drugs her. Kramer, who has started interviewing guests on an old *Merv Griffin Show* set he found, invites *Wild Kingdom*'s Jim Fowler to come by. Closing number? Fowler's hawk meets George's squirrel. **GUEST STARS:** Arabella Field (Miranda), Jim Fowler (as himself), Brent Hinkley (Lou), Knight (Newman), John O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Julia Pennington (Celia) **CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?** Elaine's co-worker Lou Filerman "sidles up" to her in Peterman's presence and takes credit for her work. **THIS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING:** We find out George's parents were still changing his diapers when he was 7½. **RATING: ★★** Jerry drugging his girlfriend is more snoozer than shocker, but the site of Kramer "interviewing" the gang had us in stitches.

FASCINATING RHYTHM

COMPOSER JONATHAN WOLFF GETS TOES TAPPING WITH HIS FINGER-SNAPPING THEME SONG

If *Seinfeld* is the antisitcom, then the score that accompanies it is the antitheme song. In 1989, Jerry Seinfeld was struggling to find the perfect musical counterpart to the monologues that originally opened his show. In stepped Jonathan Wolff, the composer behind such long-running shows as *Who's the Boss?* and *Married... With Children*, who realized that the show about nothing called for something different. He ended up creating the lip-popping, finger-snapping, bass-driven syncopation that would become the show's musical mantra, as evocative of *Seinfeld* as Kramer's klutzy entrances.

After *Seinfeld* and Wolff met through a mutual friend, comedian George Wallace, the 39-year-old musician soon determined that the key was to build a montage of sounds to accompany Seinfeld's comedic style rather than the traditional "catchy, identifiable theme song," he says. Wolff orchestrated sounds to complement Seinfeld's voice inflections and the rhythm of his speech in the opening monologue, which changed every episode, necessitating Wolff's weekly input. "He has a unique, quirky, rhythmic delivery to his comedy. So instead of using drums and percussion, I used lips, snapping fingers and tongue noises [recorded on a synthesizer] that blended

well with his human voice delivering a monologue."

While the music may have blended well with Jerry, it initially grated on some ears at NBC. "Because this music at the time was very odd, there were executives who thought this was too weird for television. They would say, 'We're doing a TV show. Let's have TV music.'" Fortunately, the battle was won, and over the years the sound got even weirder (and transcended the dropping of the monologue). "It became wackier, goofier and stranger," Wolff says. "The melodies would be less singable, and I put surprises in them with bass transitions that sometimes drew attention to themselves."

Wolff says he wasn't surprised when *Seinfeld* decided to call it quits. "There were people who grumbled, 'Do it for the crew. We still need the money,'" the composer says. "He owes us nothing. I'm just really, really grateful that the show lasted as long as it did."

And although Wolff supplies the music on eight to 10 series a year, he knows the *Seinfeld* theme will be the one that people mimic long into the future. "Old-timers in the industry seem to dwell on the good old days. I'm guessing the nine seasons of *Seinfeld* will be mine when I'm an old coot."



THE SLICER

EPISODE 155

PREMIERED: 11/13/97 **WRITERS:** Darin Henry Gregg Kavet, Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George's new job at Kruger Industrial Smoothing is in jeopardy after he sees himself in a Kruger family photo. It's from 1989 at the beach, where George chucked the Krugers' boom box into the ocean after speculating (rightly, it turns out) that they had stolen his clothes. His airbrushing solution fails, however, when Kruger is removed instead. To get a new picture of a shirtless Kruger, George plans a skin-cancer screening at the office, to be conducted by Jerry's doctor girlfriend, Sara. But Jerry alienates her with his comments about aloe, so Kramer—already at Kruger getting a kink in his new meat slicer "smoothed"—steps in. **GUEST STARS:** Marcia Cross (Sara), Daniel Von Barga (Kruger) **DREAM DATE:** Elaine has a nightmare that she's in bed with Jerry, George and Kramer. **RATING:** ★ This strained slice of weirdness just doesn't cut it.

THE BETRAYAL

EPISODE 156

PREMIERED: 11/20/97 **WRITERS:** Mandel, Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** In the "backward episode" (the scenes air from last to first), Elaine is invited to Sue Ellen Mischke's wedding in India a week beforehand and spitefully brings the gang. Kramer stays home to fix a problem: Friend FDR (Franklin Delano Romanowski) made a wish that Kramer drop dead, so George's girlfriend, Nina, uses his ticket. An "awkward pause" leads to Jerry and Nina sleeping together, and a peach schnapps-affected Elaine spills to George. It also gets out that Elaine once slept with Sue Ellen's fiancé, Pinter. In the end we learn that Nina just wanted a free trip. **GUEST STARS:** Knight (Newman), Michael McShane (FDR), Justine Miceli (Nina), Brenda Strong (Sue Ellen), Heidi Swedberg (Susan), Shaun Toub (Pinter) **FLASH BACK:** As the story winds back, Susan tells George to "put your sorries in a sack," Kramer throws a snowball at FDR, and Jerry meets Kramer: "We're

neighbors. What's mine is yours." **RATING:** ★★★ .episode this elevate to enough strong are flashbacks final the but, comedy than curiosity More

THE APOLOGY

EPISODE 157

PREMIERED: 12/11/97 **WRITER:** Jennifer Crittenden **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** All the world's a stage—of recovery. In step 9 of his AA program, Jason "Stankey" Hanke, who once commented on the size of George's neck at a party, must apologize to everyone he has wronged. A dissatisfied George confronts Hanke's sponsor, who sends him to "Rageaholics Anonymous." Elaine is plagued by Peggy, a co-worker who is phobic of Elaine's germs, so "recovering germaphobe" Puddy steps in. Unfortunately, everyone takes a step backward after a dinner prepared by Kramer, who has taken to doing *everything* in the shower. **GUEST STARS:** Megan Cole (Peggy), Kathleen McClellan (Melissa), James Spader (Hanke), Warburton (Puddy) **TOO MUCH OF A NUDE THING:** Jerry is troubled that girlfriend

"IN REAL LIFE I'M MORE WITH-IT. THEY MAKE ME LOOK LIKE THEY WANT ME TO LOOK, BUT I'M REALLY SO MUCH YOUNGER AND PRETTIER."

—Estelle Harris (Estelle Costanza)

Melissa walks around his apartment in the buff. "Naked hair-brushing, good; naked crouching, bad." **RATING:** ★ This episode continues the recent trend of trying overly hard to tie loose ends together.

THE STRIKE

E P I S O D E 1 5 8

PREMIERED: 12/18/97 **WRITERS:** Berg, O'Keefe, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** At a party at Tim Whatley's, Elaine gives a geek her standard fake phone number, which spells NO ELAINE. Realizing she inadvertently gave away a card she needs, she then tracks down the guys who answer that number. George hands out gift cards with donations to the bogus Human Fund. When Kruger finds out, George says it's because he celebrates Festivus ("for the rest of us"), not Christmas. The episode ends at the Costanzas' home with a celebration of Frank's made-up holiday. **GUEST STARS:** Bryan Cranston (Tim Whatley), Karen Fineman (Gwen), Harris (Estelle), Kevin McDonald (Denim Vest), Stiller (Frank), Von Borgen (Kruger) **TWIN PEAKS:** Jerry dates Gwen, a woman reminiscent of the *Batman* villain Two-Face, who looks good half the time and bad half the time. **RATING:** ★★ The episode itself is two-faced. Good side: Festivus, the Human Fund, Gwen. Bad side: Kramer's H&H Bagels exploits (he returns to work after a 12-year strike) and Elaine's card quest.

THE DEALERSHIP

E P I S O D E 1 5 9

PREMIERED: 01/08/98 **WRITER:** Koren **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Puddy, who has "graduated" to salesman, promises Jerry "an insider deal" on a new car. (Downside: He keeps forcing Jerry to high-five him.) George tags along and looks for the free doughnuts (which he keeps missing) and a Twix bar from the vending machine (which is stolen by mechanic Don). Just as Jerry is closing in on a black Saab 900, Elaine dumps Puddy, thus ruining the deal. Jerry negotiates to

get the romance back on track, but then, when he won't high-five the salesman, gets stuck with a yellow Caprice Classic anyway. **GUEST STARS:** Joel McCrary (Don), Warburton (Puddy) **LE LOSER:** We find out George's dad once owned a Le Car, causing the kids at school to taunt, "Let's stuff Le George in Le Locker." **RATING:** ★★ For a Puddy power injection and a George we can believe in (hungry and paranoid).



Newman and Kramer tout ricksha riding to a skeptical Jerry in episode 165.

THE REVERSE PEEPHOLE

E P I S O D E 1 6 0

PREMIERED: 01/15/98 **WRITER:** Feresten **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Gender-bending garb dresses up this story. Puddy wears a "manfur" as his winter coat, to which Elaine objects on grounds of taste. When she's put "in charge of" the coats at Joe Mayo's apartment warming, she tosses the fur, which turns out to be the host's look-alike. Newman—who, incidentally, is joining Kramer in installing reverse peepholes—retrieves the coat and offers it to building super Silvio's wife. Jerry, who is on "a pocket diet," kicks the wallet habit, so Elaine hooks him up with a European carry-all that is actually a manpurse. Kramer, protecting Newman, tells Silvio the coat belongs to Jerry, who then has to wear the furry number on the street—while carrying his manpurse. **GUEST STARS:** Pat Finn (Joe Mayo), Knight (Newman), Jon Polito

(Silvio), Warburton (Puddy) **WHY WHITE MEN CAN'T DANCE:** Jerry co-opts the phrase "gettin' jiggy wit' it" to describe his DJ-ing expertise at Mayo's last party. **RATING:** ★★★ Handsome and stylish, but it doesn't quite reach classic status.

THE CARTOON

E P I S O D E 1 6 1

PREMIERED: 01/29/98 **WRITER:** Kaplan **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry tells Kramer that wannabe comic Sally Weaver is so awful she should "just give it up," and Kramer repeats the smear. Sally's revenge: a hit one-woman show called "Jerry Seinfeld Is the Devil." (Newman goes six times. "It's so great to see a show that's about something.") Jerry becomes more and more enraged as Sally expands her routine, but he does get some form of flattery when George meets Jerry look-alike Janet at a party and, smitten, tells her she's the prettiest girl there. Kramer delivers the verdict that George is "all mixed up in a bizarre sexual amalgam of some girl and his best friend," which, naturally, winds up in Sally's act. **GUEST STARS:** Kathy Griffin (Sally Weaver), Knight (Newman), Tracy Nelson (Janet) **THAT'S NOT FUNNY:** Elaine's *New Yorker* cartoon is spotted to be a Ziggy rip-off. **RATING:** ★★★ It feels right that George should find love with a "lady Jerry," and Sally is a perfect nemesis. But what's with Kramer's sudden loose lips?

THE STRONG BOX

E P I S O D E 1 6 2

PREMIERED: 02/05/98 **WRITER:** O'Keefe, Billy Kimball **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine's new guy, Glenn, is so nonforthcoming that she thinks he's married; Jerry thinks he's the Green Lantern. When she finds out he's actually just poor, Elaine decides to "pay him off," then discovers he's poor and married. George can't ditch Maura, so he arranges for her to see him with Loretta, a secretary at work, but both women want to work through the problem. Kramer struggles to hide the key to a strongbox for his "irreplaceables"

("Some taxidermy, my Tony, my military discharge"), a mission that ultimately leads to the death of a parrot. **GUEST STARS:** Ileana Douglas (Loretta), Alex Kapp (Maura), Nicholas Paul Walker (Glenn) **BREAK POINTS:** George, on Maura: "Sometimes, at restaurants, she talks to her food: 'Oh, Mr. Mashed Potatoes, you are so good!'" **RATING: ★★** It's much ado about nothing—in a bad way.

THE WIZARD

EPISODE 163

PREMIERED: 02/26/98 **WRITER:** Steve Lookner **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Kramer "retires" to the Seinfelds' Florida condo, where Jerry's visiting for his dad's birthday. (He gives Morty a \$200 Wizard electronic organizer, saying he bought it on the street for \$50.) Kramer runs for condo president but loses, partly because the Wizard "tip calculators" he gives out are faulty (they're cut-rate Willards). George gets out of a social event with the Rosses by saying he'll be signing a lease on a

Hamptons house; they play along, and when he finds out they're on to him, he invites them out. Jerry thinks Elaine's new guy, Darryl, might be black, but she can't ask: "Then it's like I really want to know." **GUEST STARS:** Samuel Bliss Cooper (Darryl), Warren Frost (Mr. Ross), Martin (Morty), Sheridan (Helen), Grace Zabriskie (Mrs. Ross) **BUYING DECISION:** "I've been lying about my income for a few years; I figured I could afford a fake house in the Hamptons," George says. **RATING: ★★** We love George's lies, but Darryl can't hold a candle to Puddy.

THE BURNING

EPISODE 164

PREMIERED: 03/19/98 **WRITER:** Crittenden **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine discovers Puddy is religious (the presets on his car radio are all Christian stations) and is upset he's not trying to save her from Hell. George, "good for one comment" during

meetings, takes a lesson about showmanship from Jerry: "When you hit that high note, say good night and walk off." Now popular with boss Kruger, George is saddled with a huge project. Kramer and Mickey get a gig acting out diseases at Mt. Sinai Hospital for medical students to practice diagnosing, but Kramer is so good at gonorrhea that he's "typecast," forcing him to "steal" Mickey's ailment (cirrhosis of the liver with jaundice). Jerry gives girlfriend Sophie the "It's me" when she answers the phone; mistaking him for a friend, she admits she hasn't yet told Jerry "The Tractor Story." **GUEST STARS:** Cindy Ambuehl (Sophie), Von Barga (Kruger), Warburton (Puddy), Danny Woodburn (Mickey) **THIS SINKS:** George's take on "Titanic": "So that old woman, she's just a liar, right?" **LOOKING FOR LOVE:** Elaine prefers a "dumb and lazy" man to a religious one because "dumb and lazy I understand." **RATING: ★★☆☆** They're hitting the high note and keeping us wanting more.

AND SO IT GOES....

As of press time, the five final *Seinfeld* episodes and a clip-show retrospective had not yet aired. Information on these episodes was culled solely from NBC.

THE BOOKSTORE

EPISODE 165

PREMIERES: 04/09/98 **WRITERS:** Feresten, Darin Henry, Mark Jaffe **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George decides that bookstores are a good place to meet women but ends up having to buy an expensive coffee-table tome he takes into the bathroom. Jerry's efforts to teach Uncle Leo a lesson (he thinks it's his right as a retired person to steal books) get the old man arrested. After embarrassing herself at last year's J. Peterman party with her distinctive dancing moves, Elaine is caught making out with a co-worker, Zach. Kramer and Newman open a ricksha business, but one of the homeless people they've hired runs off with the ricksha. **GUEST STARS:** Lesser (Uncle Leo), Knight (Newman), O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Jonathan Pennter (Zach)

THE FROGGER

EPISODE 166

PREMIERES: 04/23/98 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Koren, Robin, O'Keefe **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine, fed up that Peterman celebrates

everything, decides to boycott all company parties. When she gets the munchies, she mistakenly eats Peterman's \$29,000 cake that came from the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. George buys an arcade game from his high school pizza parlor, and Kramer helps him move it, which they have to do without unplugging the machine because it'll wipe out George's top score. Jerry's latest, Lisi, keeps finishing his sentences. **GUEST STARS:** Julia Campbell (Lisi), O'Hurley (J. Peterman)

THE MAID

EPISODE 167

PREMIERES: 04/30/98 **WRITERS:** Berg, Mandel, Schaffer, Kit Boss, Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry hires a maid, who forgets all about her cleaning duties when they start sleeping together. Soon, Jerry worries about the implications of paying her when she's not doing the job. When Kramer's girlfriend moves downtown, he acts like she's on the other side of the world. People are hesitant to call Elaine when she is forced to change her phone number and gets the dreaded 646 area code. George decides he hates his name

and comes up with alternatives, including T-Bone, which is quickly usurped by a co-worker. **GUEST STARS:** Angela Featherstone (Cindy the maid)

THE PUERTO RICAN DAY

EPISODE 168

PREMIERES: 05/07/98 **WRITERS:** Berg, Crittenden, Feresten, Kaplan, Kavet, Koren, Mandel, O'Keefe, Robin, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Stuck in a traffic jam caused by the Puerto Rican Day parade, Kramer advises Jerry on how to get out of the mess. George takes advantage of the delay by taking in a movie, but he is thwarted in his attempts to make the audience laugh with his one funny line by a viewer who is brandishing a laser. Fed up with waiting, Elaine gets into a cab that is also moving at a snail's pace. She bets the driver she can go faster on her own and ends up running alongside the taxi.

CLIP SHOW AND SERIES FINALE

EPISODES 169 & 170
ONE HOUR EACH

PREMIERES: 05/14/98 **STORY:** The retrospective features highlights from the show's nine seasons, but the finale remains a heavily guarded secret. Cocreator Larry David denies that the script on the Internet—in which the gang picks up and moves to L.A.—is the real deal. Many guest stars from past seasons are expected to reappear.

WHINE AND DINE

They tackled some mean cuisine, as food often spoiled the best-laid plans of Jerry and his pals. But our taste buds were always tickled when *Seinfeld* cooked up new ways of looking at everything from pizza to Pez. In this sweet and savory send-off, TV's top chefs and other masters of the culinary domain pay homage with a cavalcade of the comedy's comestibles.



KUNG PAO CHICKEN

EPISODE 99

This classic spicy Hunan-Szechuan dish from Martin Yan of PBS's *Yan Can Cook* is one part inspiration but most parts perspiration for George. Before consuming this mouth-watering meal, have on hand a Yankees team towel to blot beads of sweat from your forehead. A real hot tip? Break open one or more of the dried chili pods before adding them to the wok. It'll put more wow in your Pao.

¾ lb. boneless, skinless chicken,
cut into 1-inch pieces

Marinade

2 tbsp. oyster-flavored sauce
1 tsp. cornstarch

Sauce

¼ cup black vinegar or balsamic vinegar
¼ cup chicken broth
3 tbsp. rice wine or dry sherry
2 tbsp. hoisin sauce
1 tbsp. soy sauce
2 tsp. sesame oil

2 tsp. chili garlic sauce
2 tsp. sugar
2½ tbsp. cooking oil
8 small dried red chilies
4 tsp. minced garlic
2 ribs celery, diced
½ red bell pepper,
cut into 1-inch squares
½ cup diced bamboo shoots
2 tsp. cornstarch dissolved
in 1 tbsp. water
½ cup toasted walnut halves

Combine marinade ingredients in a bowl. Add chicken and stir to coat. Let stand for 10 minutes. Combine sauce ingredients in a bowl. Set aside. Place a wok over high heat until hot. Add 2 tbsp. oil, swirling to coat sides. Add chilies and cook, stirring until fragrant, about 10 seconds. Add chicken and stir-fry for 2 minutes. Remove chicken and chilies from wok. Add ½ tsp. oil, swirling to coat sides. Add garlic and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 10 seconds. Add chicken and stir-fry for 2 minutes. Remove chicken and chilies from wok. Add remaining tbsp. oil, swirling to coat sides. Add celery, bell pepper and bamboo shoots; stir-fry for 1 minute. Return chicken and chilies to wok; stir-fry for 1½ minutes. Add sauce and bring to a boil. Add cornstarch solution and cook, stirring until sauce boils and thickens. Add walnuts and toss to coat. Serves 4.

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GRANOLA CEREAL

VARIATION
ON A THEME

Why be confined by Messrs Post or Kellogg when there's an entire genre of grain to explore? Sara Moulton, *Gourmet Magazine* executive chef and host of *Cooking Live* on the Food Network, elevates this earthy snack to new heights with her crunchy creation. The ideal ratio of milk to cereal, says Moulton, is 1 to 1. Note: Make an extra batch in case you have a neighbor who likes to mooch.

⅔ cup honey
¼ cup canola oil
4 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
1 cup unsalted, shelled sunflower seeds
1 cup unsalted, whole natural almonds,
coarsely chopped
½ cup wheat germ
½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. nutmeg
1½ cups raisins or dried cherries

Preheat oven to 325° F. In a saucepan, heat honey and oil until warm. In a large bowl, toss together oats, sunflower seeds, almonds, wheat germ, spices and honey-oil mixture. Spread mixture on 2 large baking sheets and bake for 10 minutes. Stir granola and bake for an additional 2 to 5 minutes or until golden. Let cool and toss with dried fruit. Makes about 7 cups.



BLACK AND WHITE COOKIE

EPISODE 74

Jerry had the whole world in his hand when he ordered this bicolored confection. Cookie king Marcel Desaulniers, author of *Death by Chocolate* and owner of the award-winning Trellis Restaurant in Williamsburg, Virginia, designed this recipe especially for TV GUIDE. Optional accompanying soundtrack: Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder's "Ebony and Ivory."

Dark chocolate cookie

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 4 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup hot water
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 cup nonfat buttermilk
- 8 oz. semisweet chocolate minimorsels

Dark chocolate icing

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 4 tbsp. granulated sugar
- 4 oz. semisweet chocolate, finely chopped
- 4 oz. unsweetened chocolate, finely chopped

White chocolate icing

- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 1/2 tbsp. whole milk
- 1 tbsp. pure vanilla extract

4 oz. quality white chocolate

Preheat oven to 375° F. In a sifter, combine flour, cocoa powder and salt. Sift onto large piece of wax paper and set aside until needed. Place 1 cup granulated sugar and butter in bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle. Beat on medium for 3 minutes, until smooth. Use a rubber spatula to scrape down sides of bowl, then continue

on medium for 30 seconds. Remove bowl from mixer and use a rubber spatula to finish mixing batter until combined. Using a large heaping tbsp. of batter for each cookie, portion 6 cookies, evenly spaced, onto each of 4 nonstick baking sheets. Place baking sheets on top and center racks of oven and bake for 10 minutes until tops no longer appear wet, rotating sheets from top to

center halfway through baking time (at the same time, turn each sheet 180°). Remove cookies from oven and cool on baking sheets for 30 minutes.

Preparing the dark chocolate icing

While cookies are cooling, heat heavy cream and 4 tbsp. granulated sugar in a 1 1/2-quart saucepan over medium-high heat. When hot, stir to dissolve sugar. Bring to a boil. Place semisweet chocolate and unsweetened chocolate in a 2-quart bowl. Pour boiling cream over chopped chocolate and stir with whisk until smooth. Set aside at room temperature while preparing white chocolate icing.

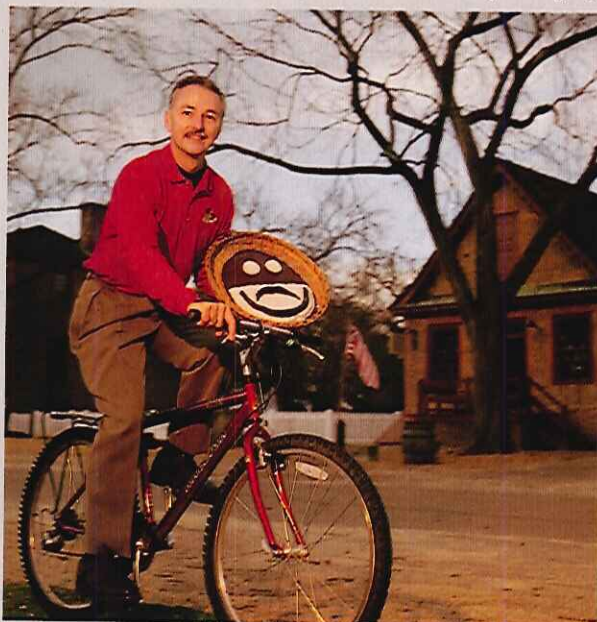
Preparing the white chocolate icing

Whisk together confectioners' sugar, whole milk and 1 tsp. vanilla in a 2-quart bowl until combined. Heat 1 inch of water in bottom half of double boiler over medium heat. With heat on, place white chocolate in top half of double boiler. Use a rubber spatula to stir chocolate until completely melted

and smooth, about 3 minutes. Add melted white chocolate to confectioners' sugar mixture and use a whisk to mix vigorously until smooth.

Icing cookies

Ice cookies by spooning approximately 1 heaping tbsp. of dark chocolate icing over the surface of half of the underside of each cookie. Spoon approximately 1 slightly heaping tbsp. of white chocolate icing over remaining half of underside of each cookie. Makes 2 dozen cookies.



to beat on medium for 2 more minutes until very smooth. Scrape down bowl again. Add egg and 1 tsp. vanilla extract and beat on medium for 30 seconds. Scrape down bowl. In a 1-quart bowl whisk together hot water (110°F) and baking soda. Set aside for a few seconds. Operate mixer on low while first gradually adding sifted dry ingredients, then buttermilk, followed by hot water and baking soda mixture. Mix until incorporated, about 1 minute. Stop mixer, add chocolate morsels and mix

PAELLA A LA VALENCIANA

EPISODE 79

When the Costanzas invited the Seinfelds to their Queens home for paella, the evening turned into a game of guess who's not coming to dinner. This aromatic recipe from Mario Batali (pictured, with sous chefs Jude Affronti, center, and Puff Daddy Habetz, far right) of the Food Network's *Mediterranean Mario* serves at least eight but makes good leftovers if your guests are a no-show.

- 8 cups chicken stock
- 1/2 tsp. saffron
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 1/2 to 3 lb. rabbit, cut into 8 pieces
- 8 chicken thighs
- 1 lb. chorizo, cut into 8 pieces
- 1 Spanish onion, chopped into 1/2-inch dice

- 1 red bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 10 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 4 tomatoes, chopped into 1/2-inch cubes, juice and seeds reserved
- 3 tbsp. Spanish paprika
- 1/2 cup peas, shucked
- 1/2 cup Romano wax beans, cut into 1-inch lengths
- 2 pimientos, roasted and cut into 1/2-inch wide strips
- 3 cups Italian arborio rice
- 24 green Valencian olives

Heat chicken broth with saffron to a boil and keep warm. On two stove burners, place an 18-inch to 22-inch paella pan. Place 1/2 cup oil in pan and heat. Season rabbit pieces and chicken, place into pan, brown well and remove. Add chorizo, green and red pepper, garlic, tomatoes, paprika, peas, beans, pimientos and stir over medium heat for 4 to 5 minutes. Add rice and continue to stir for 3 minutes. Add chicken stock, rabbit, chicken pieces and olives and cook without stirring until rice is done and liquid is absorbed, about 20 minutes. Serve immediately. Serves 8.



BOUILLABAISSE

EPISODE 2

To avoid the parent trap, Jerry kept house with Kramer when the senior Seinfelds came to town. This zesty version of the classic Provençal dish, which Kramer concocted during Jerry's sojourn, comes from Emeril Lagasse, correspondent on ABC's *Good Morning America* and host of the Food Network's *Essence of Emeril*. *C'est magnifique!*

- 1 recipe bouillabaisse broth (see below)
- pinch saffron
- 1 cup leeks, julienned
- 3 cups peeled, seeded and chopped tomatoes
- juice and strips of zest from 1 orange
- 1 cup fennel, julienned
- 2 tbsp. chopped garlic
- 2 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley leaves
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 lbs. assorted small, whole, fresh fish from the Mediterranean, such as whiting, squid, sea bass
- 1 lb. medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 lobster, about 1½ to 2 lbs.
- ½ lb. littleneck clams, scrubbed

- and rinsed
- ½ lb. mussels, scrubbed and rinsed
- 12 slices crusty French bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 recipe rouille (see below)



Put broth in a large, heavy pot on medium heat and bring to a gentle boil. Add saffron, leeks, tomatoes, orange juice, orange zest, fennel, garlic and parsley. Season with salt and pepper. Add fish and lobster. Cook for 8 minutes. Add shrimp, mussels and clams. Cook for 6 minutes or until shells have opened. Discard any shells that do not open. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer seafood to large, deep bowl. Cut lobster in half. Pour broth into bowl over seafood. Drizzle the rouille over bouillabaisse. Serve croutons on side. Serves 6.

Bouillabaisse broth

- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup chopped yellow onions
- ½ cup chopped celery
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 bay leaf
- 8 black peppercorns
- 2 sprigs thyme
- 1 lb. fish bones
- 8 to 10 cups water
- 1 cup dry white wine

Heat olive oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onions and celery. Season with salt and pepper. Sauté for 3 minutes. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add bay leaf, peppercorns and thyme. Add fish bones, water and wine. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Remove from heat and strain. Makes 8 cups.

Rouille

- 1 medium red bell pepper, roasted, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 slice white bread, broken into pieces
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 tbsp. dijon mustard
- 3 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- ½ cup olive oil

Combine pepper, garlic, bread, egg yolk, mustard and lemon juice in a food processor. Puree until smooth. With machine running, slowly add olive oil through feed tube. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use. Makes 1 cup.

MARBLE RYE

EPISODE 115

Everyone loses their marbles in this wry look at what happens when Susan's parents forget to serve the bread the Costanzas bring to dinner. This recipe comes from celebrated Jewish food writer Ethel Hofman, author of *Everyday Cooking for the Jewish Home*. Degift at your own risk.

- 2¼ cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 cup rye flour
- 1 tbsp. mashed potato flakes
- 1½ cups lukewarm water (105–110° F)
- 2 tbsp. honey
- ¼ oz. package plus 1 tsp. active dry yeast
- 2 tbsp. vegetable oil
- ¾ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. gravy browning (such as Gravy Master)
- 2 tbsp. cornmeal
- 1 tsp. unsweetened cocoa

In a large bowl, mix the flours. Set aside. In a small bowl, combine potato flakes with ¼-cup water and honey. Microwave on high for 40 seconds. Mix well.

Refrigerate until lukewarm (about 10 minutes). Add remaining water and yeast and stir a few times to mix. Set aside until mixture is frothy, about 10 minutes. Stir yeast mixture. Pour 1 cup of this mixture and 1 tsp. oil into bowl of food processor. Add 2¼ cups of combined flours and salt. Process 40 seconds or until dough begins to leave the side of the bowl. Add more flour gradually if needed. Transfer to a well-oiled bowl, turning so that all sides are oiled. Cover tightly with plastic wrap, then a clean towel. Let rise in a warm, draft-free place until doubled (1 to 2 hours). Rinse processor bowl. Stir gravy browning and cocoa into remaining yeast mixture. Pour into processor bowl. Add 1 tsp. oil and ¾ cup flour mixture. Process 30 seconds or until dough begins to form a ball. If needed, add more flour as above. Transfer to a well-oiled bowl, turning so that all sides are oiled. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and a clean towel and let rise in a warm, draft-free place until almost doubled (1 to 2 hours). Turn the pale-colored dough onto a floured board. Punch down, knead 3 minutes and shape into a ¾-inch rectangle (about 10 by 6 inches). On a floured board, punch down the dark-colored dough. Knead 2 minutes. Shape into a roll about 3-inches wide. Place lengthwise on bottom half of dough rectangle. Press with fingers to bring towards center. Roll up as for a jelly roll. Pinch ends to seal. Brush with oil. Place on a baking sheet sprinkled with cornmeal or a greased 9 by 5-inch loaf pan. Cover loosely with wax paper and let rise again until almost doubled. With a sharp knife, make three crosswise slashes on top of loaf. Cover and let rise a few minutes longer. Bake in preheated 400°F oven for 40 minutes. Loaf is done when bottom sounds hollow when tapped. Cool thoroughly on a wire rack before slicing.



SEIN-ING OFF

WHO SAYS SEINFELDERS AREN'T SENTIMENTAL?

"Coming back for the last year definitely put a smile on my face. In the scenes with Jerry where comedy is in the air and flying, that's about as good a feeling as it gets." —*Stephen Hytner (Kenny Bania)*

"Maybe this show, after perhaps a year, will come back. Maybe it will just be in remission. Maybe Jerry will say, 'I've had my time away and it was wonderful, but I'm rested. I'm ready to come back.' Who knows. Anything can happen."
—*Jerry Stiller (Frank Costanza)*



"I was a little disappointed. I know Jerry said he wants to leave on top, being [the] No. 1 [sitcom]. But what's bad about leaving in a few years as No. 3?" —*Estelle Harris (Estelle Costanza)*



"Strangely enough, it's behind everybody's eyes. You can see it. There's an awful lot of hugging, and there's a lovely feeling. Everybody is more generous with their time. It's almost bittersweet. I'm afraid to think about it [ending]."
—*Liz Sheridan (Helen Seinfeld)*

"You can see the relief in Jerry now that the decision is made. You know it must have been killing him.... I'm devastated in the sense of not being able to go to work any more at Jerry's Place, as I call it."
—*Barney Martin (Morty Seinfeld)*

"Of course I was very sad to see it go. I tell ya, it's been such a great nine years for me that I can't dwell on that. I'm delighted to have been a part of it." —*Len Lesser (Uncle Leo)*

"At the Christmas party this past year, I think Jerry knew that it was going to be the last; we all had that feeling. It got to be late in the party, and Julia and Jerry were kind of fooling around; they got up in the catwalk above the soundstage, and they were operating the boom mikes like deep-sea fishermen pulling in marlin. And they both had cigars sticking out of their mouths, laughing. It is a pleasant moment that I will carry with me."
—*Wayne Knight (Newman)*



All right, sir General expression of agreement

Baldist One who is prejudiced against the follicly-challenged

The Beast Hideous, lingering body odor

The Chip-in A gift that everyone contributes money toward

Close talker One who leaves little space in face-to-face chatter

Degift To take back a present (particularly if the recipient is unappreciative)

Double-dip To redip a chip after biting (a big no-no)

Festivus Proposed nondenominational alternative to Christmas and Hanukkah

Get out! Utterance of disbelief; usually accompanied by a shove

Giddy-up! Substitute for "OK, let's do it!"

Hand Possessing more control than one's partner in a romantic relationship

WORDS OF HONOR

They leave us on good terms and with good terms. In case you're not caught up on your catchphrases, here's the recap on *Seinfeld* semantics. Giddy-up!

Low talker One who has difficulty reaching an audible level when speaking

Manfur Coat of animal hair worn by the human male

Master of your domain (See "*The Seinfeld Guide to Sex*," page 21)

Mimbo A male bimbo

Not that there's anything wrong with that Disclaimer used when one is wrongly suspected of being homosexual

Oh, Moses, smell the roses For God's sake, get a clue

The pesto of cities Seattle (as long as it is still in vogue)

Pop-in A quick visit

Serenity now! A relaxation mantra

Shiksappeal Charm possessed by a woman who is not Jewish

Sidler One who sidles up next to another

These pretzels are making me thirsty General expression of irritation

Yada, yada, yada Conversation glosser-over; similar to blah, blah, blah

You gotta see the baby Annoying refrain repeated by new parents

You are so good-looking Suggested replacement for "God bless you" after one has sneezed

*Each year, 6 out of 10 bridesmaids are
forced to wear fuchsia.*



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